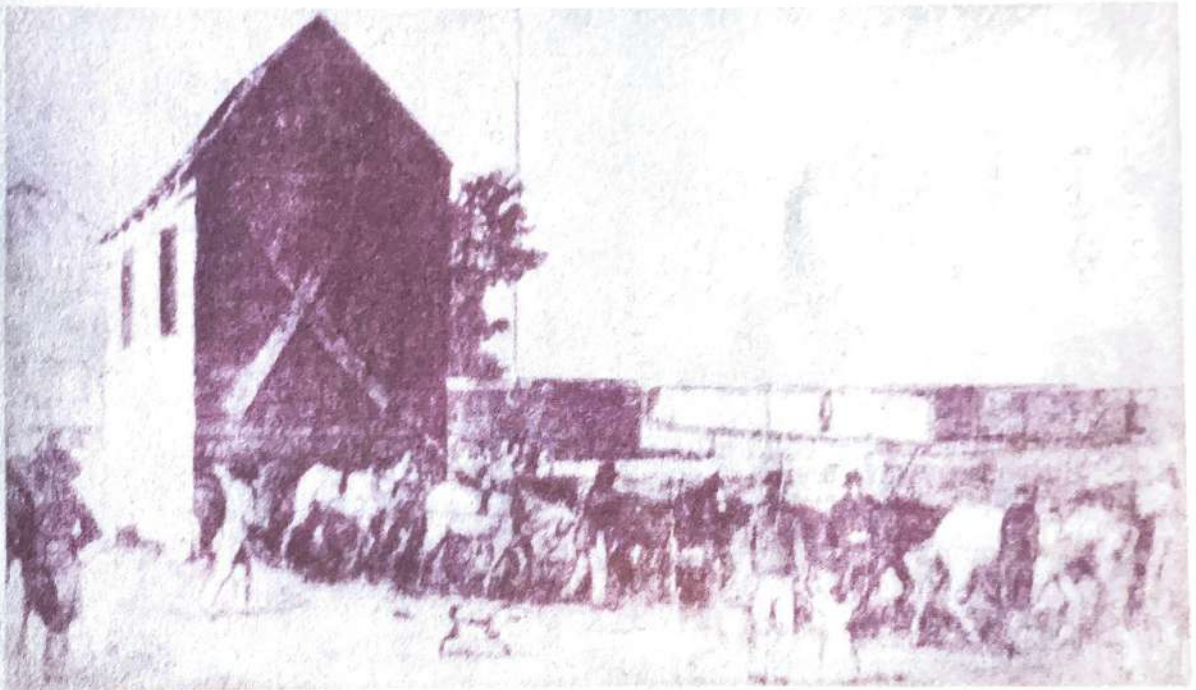




Ms. Ellen M. Morse
28 Laurel St.
Buffalo, NY 14209-1902

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

One-hundred eighty-eight years of Progress



"The Blacksmith Shop"

OUR BEGINNING



Mrs. Veale Mrs. Wilson Mrs. McDade William Ford
 Mrs. Bryant Jesse Chase
 Miss Stewart Mrs. Sloan Mrs. Crumpley Rev. Crumpley

BUFFALONIANS IN BETHLEHEM—A group of church people are shown on a recent tour of Israel, Greece and Rome led by the Rev. G. Grant Crumpley of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. They are on the steps of St. John the Baptist Church in Jerusalem. They are Miss Janie Belle Stewart, Mrs. Ellen Sloan, Mrs. Crumpley, Jesse Chase, Mrs. Bertha Veale of Passaic, N.J., a frequent visitor to Buffalo; Mrs. Gertha Wilson, Mrs. Gladys Bryant of Prince of Peace Church of God in Christ, Mrs. Narcissus McDade and William Ford of Walls Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Unless otherwise noted all the Buffalo people belong to Bethel Church.

Ms. Ellen M. Morse
 28 Laurel St.
 Buffalo, NY 14209-1902

HISTORICAL NOTE ON "THE BLACKSMITH SHOP"

The "Africans" who started the A.M.E. Church were very poor and most of them could not read nor write. Yet, under the leadership of Richard Allen, they managed to buy an old blacksmith shop, and move it to a lot at the corner of Sixth and Lombard Streets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they organized Bethel A.M.E. Church which stands today as one of the historic shrines of Philadelphia.

—Excerpted from "Know Your Church Manual—The African Methodist Episcopal Church

ELLEN

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

One-hundred eighty-eight years of Progress



OUR BEGINNING

BISHOPS A. M. E. CHURCH



D. W. Nichols



Joseph Gomez



I. H. Bonner



W. R. Wilkes



H. T. Primm



F. D. Jordan



E. L. Hickman



W. F. Ball



O. L. Sherman



G. W. Blakely



H. J. Bryant



H. I. Bearden



H. N. Robinson



G. D. Robinson,
(Deceased)



H. W. Murph



J. H. Adams



R. A. Hilderbrand



S. S. Morris, Jr.



F. D. Talbot



H. H. Brookins



V. R. Anderson



F. C. James



F. M. Reid, Jr.

Pastor's Word



Bishop Hickman and I were having a press conference, preparatory to the celebration of our 188th Annual Founders Day at Mother Bethel, with a Senior Executive Vice President of a local bank. One of the reporters asked the Vice President, one of Philadelphia's most outstanding citizens, why he had become so interested in Mother Bethel. His reply was simply that when the Nation celebrated its 100th birth-

day, no mention was made of the contributions of Black people in the life and struggles of this Nation and, after having read the life and history of Richard Allen and Mother Bethel, he did not want that to happen again.

This first edition, hurriedly put together, as incomplete as it is (for I don't know whether anyone knows at this time just how many one hundred-year-old churches exist) is a feeble attempt to put under one cover, all of the A.M.E. churches who have made a definite impact on the life of the Society of this Nation over the past one hundred years.

Our sincere thanks to Dr. H. A. Belin for his untiring efforts in putting together and publishing this material in time for the Bicentennial celebration of the Bishops' Connectional Council.

This publication is dedicated as a "Tribute to the 100 year-old churches," to be held Thursday night, February 26, 1976, during the Bishops's Council. It is hoped you will find it informative, as well as a source of pride.

Rev. Joseph L. Joiner, D.D.
Minister
Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church

History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

By Howard D. Gregg, Ph.D

Historiographer of the A.M.E. Church

History tells us that in 1787 the Colored people of Philadelphia connected with St. George's Church met to consider the unkind treatment received at the hands of their White brethren. Caste in the Church was so intense that even while at prayer Colored Brethren were pulled from their knees. Richard Allen said: If you will wait until prayer is over I will bother you no more. He then got up, and quoting Bishop Arnett, "Allen's sons and daughters have been getting up every since." The "Allenites," as they were called, increased in numbers daily.

There were only fifteen men with Richard Allen when the A.M.E. Church assumed its Connectional form in 1816. The first session of the Philadelphia Conference was held in the home of Richard Allen, May 9, 1818 at 9 o'clock. Richard Allen, Jr. was secretary. Six preachers were admitted into full membership. Among them was Morris Brown who afterward became Bishop. Union Bethel was organized in 1838, which was succeeded by Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Washington, D.C. Incidentally, the General Conference of 1872 in Nashville gave aid and sanction to the enterprise and the General Conference of 1880 in St. Louis, Missouri appropriated \$20,000 to assist in the erection of Metropolitan as a Connectional Church. In 1849, on Saratoga Street near Gay, a beautiful piece of Church architecture was laid for Bethel of Baltimore, as the religious Revival of 1842 made its old structure obsolete and the pastor Rev. Daniel A. Payne took steps to secure larger quarters.

As early as 1834 in the second decade of its history, African Methodism began to spread. The Ohio Conference was organized at Hillsboro, August 30, 1830, by Bishop Morris Brown; the Indiana Conference in 1840 at Blue River, and among the names we find Rev. William Paul Quinn and Willis R. Revels.

In 1844 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, William Paul Quinn who had been appointed Missionary to the Northwest by the General Conference of 1840 reported to the General Conference the establishment of forty-seven churches.

In 1847, Bishop William P. Quinn sent Rev. George Johnson, a missionary from New York, to organize the Quinn Chapel Society in Chicago. To relieve the overcrowded condition at Quinn Chapel in 1862, Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized. In 1819, William Lambert, a licentiate from the Philadelphia Annual Conference, organized Mother Bethel in New York City on Mott Street, where they worshipped for seven years. The A.M.E. Church in Brooklyn was founded by Rev. Benjamin Croger on August 20, 1820. A society was established as far east as New Bedford, Mass. The New England Annual Conference was organized by Bishop Payne in 1852, and according to Dr. J. T. Jenifer, the first society organized by the A.M.E. Church in this Conference was at New Haven, Connecticut in 1837 by Rev. Charles Burch. The next church organized was on Anderson Street in Boston, Massachusetts by Rev. N. C. W. Cannon. Bethel at Providence, Rhode Island was organized in 1842. In 1843, Rev. Henry Johnson organized a society in Portland, Maine, and in 1858 the Bridgeport Church was established.

(Continued on next page)

History of the A.M.E. Church

(Continued from preceeding page)

African Methodism moved down the coast to Florida and into Mississippi as early as 1863 and early churches had been planted in Nashville, Tennessee and New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1858, at Zion Church, Charleston, South Carolina, the South Carolina Conference was organized by Bishop Payne who, thirty years earlier, was forced to leave the state. In December, 1865, Elder Turner preached to a congregation on Jenkins Street in Atlanta, Georgia, and by vote of the entire congregation, they joined the A.M.E. connection. The General Conference met in Bethel Church, Atlanta, in 1876.

The North Carolina Conference was organized in 1867; the Alabama Conference, 1868, as Selma; the Mississippi Conference in 1868 at Vicksburg; the Arkansas Conference in Little Rock in 1868; and the Louisiana Conference in 1865 at St. James A.M.E. Church in New Orleans. African Methodism was organized in Texas on October 22, 1868, in Galveston. In 1864, Bishop Campbell went to the Pacific Coast, and convened the California Conference at San Francisco on April 6, 1865.

In 1827 the Baltimore Conference ordained Scipio Bean as Elder and appointed him to the Haitian Mission field. Rev. C. W. Mosselle and wife later did excellent work in this area during the years 1876-1884. Bishop B. T. Tanner visited the West Indian work in 1889, accompanied by Dr. Samuel Portor Hood. Bishop B. F. Lee visited Demerara in 1889 and brought back with him Peter Luckie who he sent to Wilberforce to be educated under the Missionary Department and he returned as a minister of the gospel to British Guiana as a Missionary. He reported to the General Conference of 1912, a St. Peter A.M.E. Church work \$2,500 with 800 conversions and a large number of members.

The Liberian Missionary Conference was organized by Bishop H. M. Turner November 23, 1891 with two Elders, eight Deacons, three Evangelists, six Mission houses and four Local Preachers and 208 members. The Liberian Government gave the church 100 acres to establish a school and station. The General Conference at Norfolk, Va. in 1908 elected Bishop W. H. Heard, Bishop for West Africa.

Bishop Turner went to South Africa and organized the Transewal Conference at Pretoria on March 9, 1898 with 7,175 members. He organized the Cape Colony Conference in 1897. Bishop Levi J. Coppin was elected Bishop in 1900 and assigned to the South African work. He organized the Orange River Conference and purchased valuable property at Cape Town for \$20,000. Within recent years our activities in Africa have been extended to cover two additional Districts, the 17th and 18th Episcopal Districts.

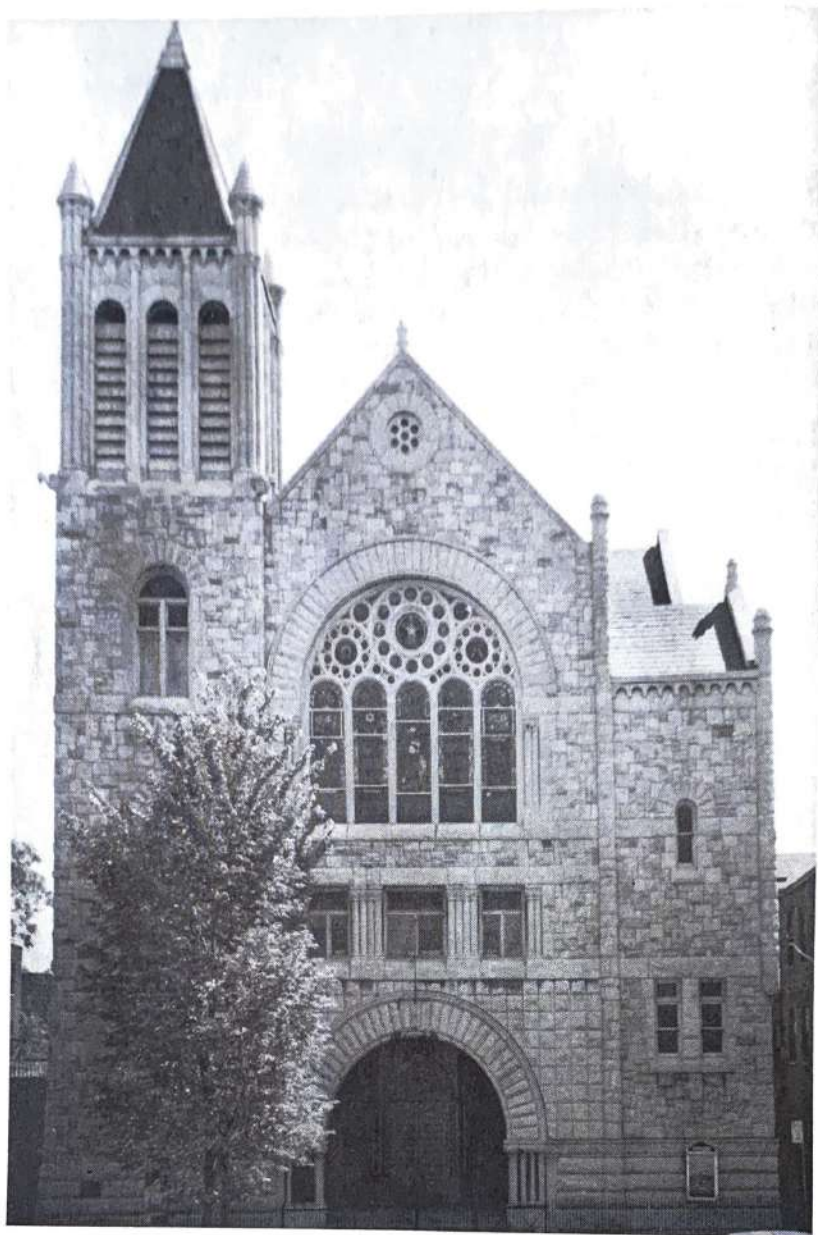
The above few citations on the spread of the African Methodist Episcopal Church indicate that there are numerous churches and Conferences that have passed the century mark. It is a commendable gesture on the part of the Bishops' Council; General Board; the Host Bishop, Bishop Ernest L. Hickman; the Host Pastor, Rev. Joseph Joiner; and Co-Host, Rev. Herman A. Rhodes to honor the century-landmarks for service rendered to God and humanity under the banner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Following the trail of
Richard Allen in the First . . .**

Mother Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1787-1976



Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest church in African Methodism, was founded by Richard Allen in 1787 at 6th Street below Pine Street, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a result of mistreatment on the part of the officers of Old St. George's Methodist Church in 1794, the first church was dedicated by Bishop Francis Asbury.

The present building, constructed in 1890, is the fourth on the same site, which represents the oldest continuous plot of real estate owned by Blacks in America. In 1965, under the pastorate of Dr. Charles E. Stewart, the Department of the Interior, United States Government, designated Mother Bethel a National Historic Shrine, and in 1974, under the pastorate of Rev. Joseph L. Joiner, the same Department designated it a Historic Landmark.

St. Matthew

A.M.E. Church—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



1869-1976

In 1869 a group of devout Christians, namely Caleb Gray, Sr., Wesley Evans, William Smith, Abram Selby, Samuel Smith, Susan Boggs, Louisa Gray, Peter Kelley, Cornelius Temple, and Rexalina Baker began to worship in the home of Peter Kelley on Chelsea Street (now Sumner Street). The home of Peter Kelley soon became too small to accommodate the growth of these few devout servants who felt the communal need for a place to worship for themselves, their families, and the community.

In the fall of 1870, this small group built a church on Race Street east of 58th, the present site of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, and called the building Kelley's Chapel in honor of its first pastor, Rev. Thomas Kelley. They remained there until 1877 at which time they joined the A.U.M.P. Conference. Later they built a church at 58th and Vine. This church was known as St. Matthew A.U.M.P. Church. For 26 years the congregation worshipped there.

Hampered in their activities because of the size of the building, plans were made to build a larger church, the new site being 57th and Sumner Streets. The cornerstone was laid July 20, 1913 and the edifice was dedicated November 16, 1913.

They joined the A.M.E. Church Conference in 1916, over which the late Bishop Evans Tyree presided, and the church was named St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church. The church steadily grew under the splendid leadership of such great men of the Gospel as: Revs. George Dickerson, I. H. Ringgold, E. T. Bruce, H. H. Cooper, J. W. Watkins, H. P. Anderson, H. F. Tyree, M. M. Lewis, E. B. Williams, R. C. Henderson and our present pastor Rev. Theophilus E. Harper.

St. Matthew's has grown by leaps and bounds under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. Harper. The accomplishments under his administration are innumerable. Continuing the plan, "Pay-As-You-Go," put forth under the administration of the late Rev. M. M. Lewis, the "Little Church," as it was endearingly called, is a focal point of the many accomplishments made through the ingenuity of Rev. Harper with the support of its great congregation. In 1941, the cornerstone was laid at the present site and the Richard Allen Youth Center was built. Now, fully-grown, the Oak (St. Matthew's) has taken its rightful place as one of African Methodism's best.



Rev. T. E. Harper
Pastor

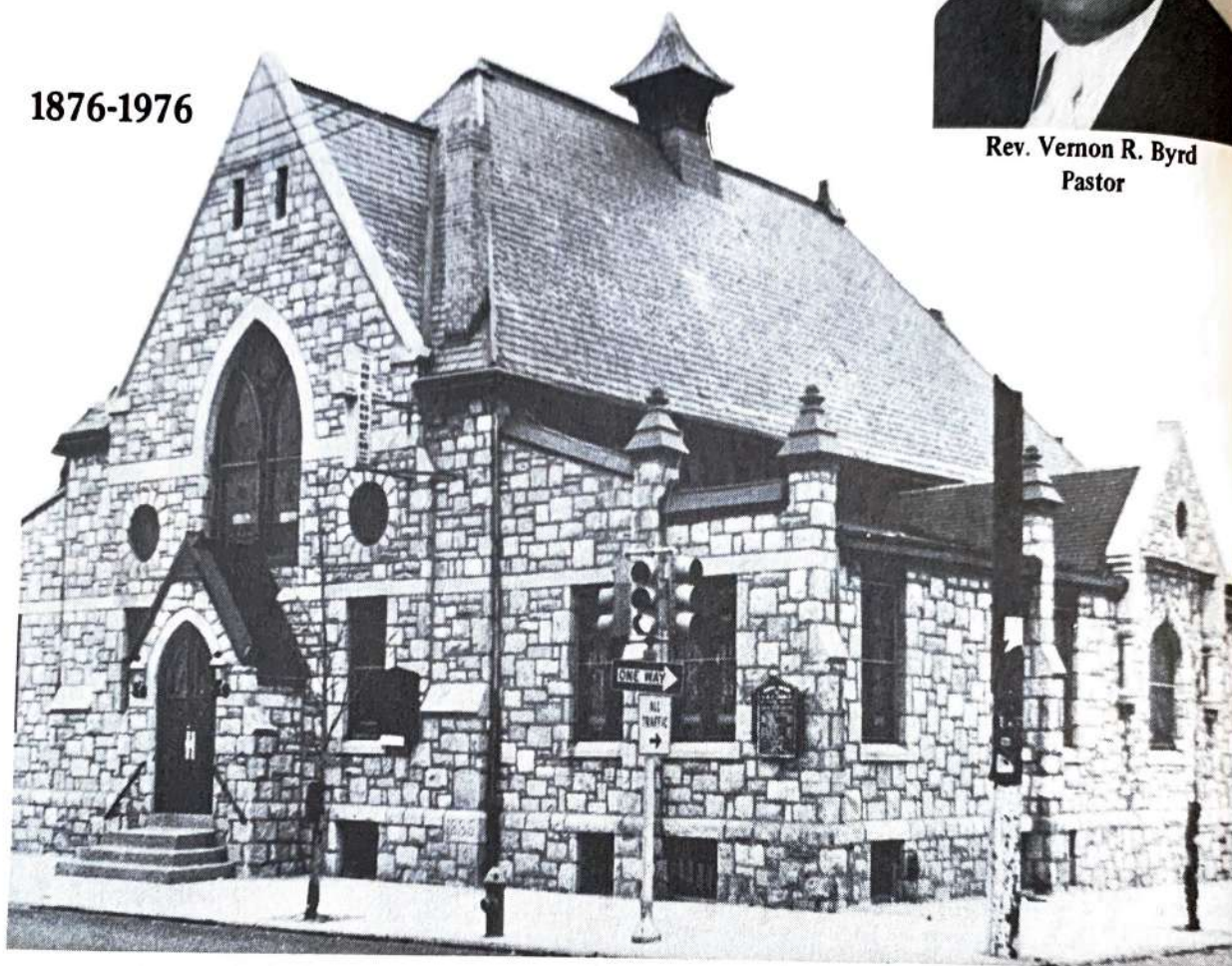
Morris Brown

A.M.E. Church—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1876-1976



Rev. Vernon R. Byrd
Pastor



Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church is one of the oldest churches in the A.M.E. Conference. Founded in 1876 and named after the second Bishop of the A.M.E. Conference, Morris Brown stands as a symbol of great achievement and as a landmark, dedicated to Christianity and community concern.

The first church building of Morris Brown had a very small beginning in a room over a store at Poplar and Vineyard Streets. With the late Rev. Solomon Hood as its pastor, the growing congregation made it necessary to purchase a large building to worship in. It was at Ridge and Montgomery Avenues, where the first building was purchased, which is still in existence today.

Many pastors have passed this way and left his mark on Morris Brown. No one pastor did all that was needed but they all served in a very special manner. One of the greatest milestones in the long history occurred on a Sunday in January, 1953, when under the Pastorship of the late Rev. E. J. Cross, Morris Brown marched to its present location which has been a monument in the services it has bestowed upon this community. After the Passing of Rev. Keays, the Lord sent us a minister in the name of the Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, who has held the rein for the last five years. Rev. Byrd has been an inspiration to Morris Brown; under his pastorship the congregation has grown to the largest membership it has ever had.

Union

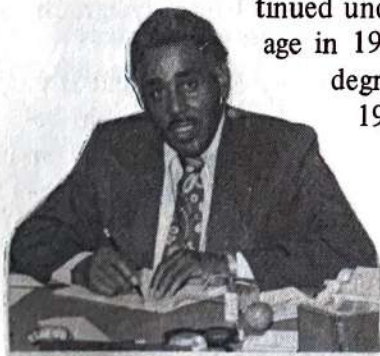
A.M.E. Church—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1809-1976

In 1809, Union African Methodist Episcopal Church began its long and illustrious history. A band of only eighteen persons who were members of Zoar Methodist Episcopal Church detached themselves from that church and began to worship in what they called Union Mission at Fifth Street and Fairmont Avenue. Union Mission suffered interference from the M.E. Church, which finally led to the deeding of the church home, which they had erected in 1816, to the A.M.E. Connection in 1817 and formally dedicated by Richard Allen. In 1848, Union was chartered as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, with Rev. Willis Nazrey as the first regular pastor, previous pastors having been supplied by Bethel A.M.E. Church.



Union continued to grow from the 1850's, under the pastorates of many great leaders. Rev. Theophilus Steward in 1883 began to seek out a more commodious place of worship and on January 13, 1884, the congregation moved to a larger church and parsonage on 16th Street below Fairmont Avenue. The Rev. Oliver Childers, appointed to Union in 1949, led a march of the congregation to the present location on May 11, 1952. The Rev. Charles Steward came in 1956 and reduced the mortgage of over \$45,000 in four years. The Rev. William Stevenson followed, solidifying the great gains made by Rev. Steward, and leading many to the altar. In 1961, the Rev. J. Winsmore Mason began beautifying the exterior of the church which was continued under the pastorate of Rev. John Collier, Jr. who added a beautiful parsonage in 1967. Rev. John Lee, who followed, prayerfully reduced to a significant degree the debt-load of the church and led many new souls to Christ from 1968 to 1972.

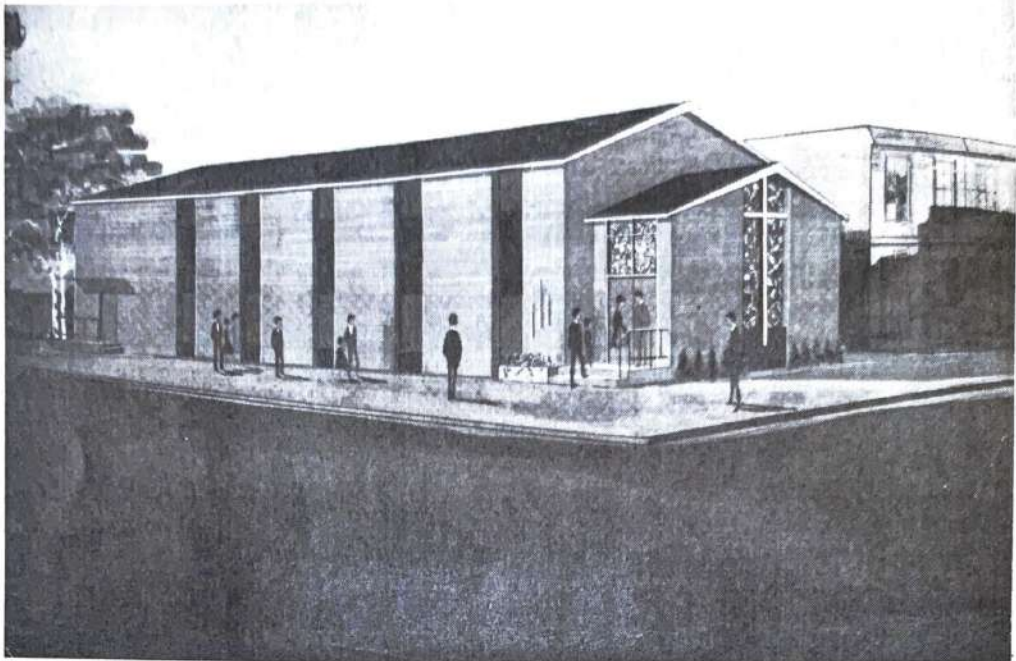


In September, 1972, we were afforded another servant of God. He has accomplished, thus far, in liquidating the church mortgage, the parsonage mortgage, and remodeling the interior of the church. He has instituted an Outreach, Youth, Senior Citizen and other programs which advance God's cause at Union. This servant is the Rev. L. Marshall Watts.

St. John

A.M.E. Church—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1876-1976



Records show that on May 2, 1876 three members serving as trustees of the then known, Paschallville Mission, namely, brother Thomas A. Hooper, Bro. Leonard Lindsey and Bro. Wesley Meeds, all now deceased, signed a deed to a piece of ground located on the northwest side of 72nd Street and Greenway Avenue. This site was the original location of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church. The deed was recorded in City Hall, April 16, 1877. The first building was constructed from White-washed railroad logs and the first pastor we know of was Rev. Charles Satchel.

Other trustees serving as far back as 1887 were Bro. Joseph Williams, Bro. Ebenezer Patton and Bro. Shadrack Waters, all deceased. Documented papers showed that the late Bro. Thomas A. Hooper was ordained for the office of Deacon of the A.M.E. Church at St. John on June 8, 1896 by the late Bishop Abraham Grant. According to the recollection of one of our oldest living members, Sis. Ann Gibson, the first Sunday School Supt. and Organist was Mr. Hopkins; the first class leader was "Pop" Waters; the first church clerk was Mr. Charles Thomas and his wife was one of the first stewardess. The first couple to be married were the parents of the late Sis. Elizabeth Sutton.

Other class leaders were Bro. Thomas Guy, a local preacher, Bro. Beverly Berkley and Bro. Jackson, from Daily, Pa. During the serving of these men, there was a great spiritual fellowship between Siloam, 70th Street and Woodland Avenue., Macedonia now 1st Baptist, 71st Street and Yokum Street and St. John. We are told this was every Sunday, not just once in a while. St. John's congregation has been housed in three different buildings including the one in which we are now worshipping. We are now making plans to complete our church. St. John has come a long, long way and by the grace of God and if it is His divine will we shall accomplish our desire: "the completion of our building." Our present pastor is Rev. Granville P. Dennison.

Bethlehem

A.M.E. Church—Langhorne, Pennsylvania

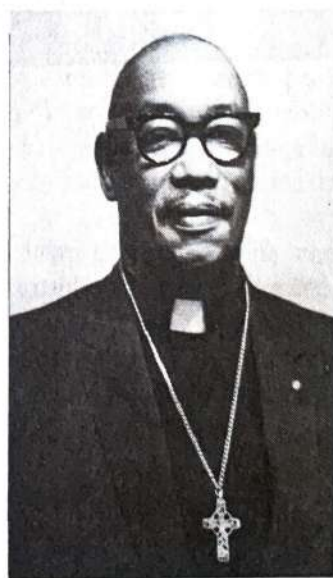
1809-1976



The Society of Colored Methodist was founded December 9, 1809 by a small group of Christians, namely, Edward Jackson, George Woodland, John Mefser, Samuel Anderson, Cuffey Williams, Sippe Brown John Miller, Robbin Robbins, Issac Gray, Stacey Omer, Joseph Eloy and Henry Thomas who decided to withdraw from the Methodist Church and start a church of their own, under the Methodist at Four Lanes, Pa., later known as Attleboro, now Langhorne, Pa.

The next few years the Church increased spiritually and in numbers, the members became dissatisfied with the Methodist in 1815 and decided to withdraw from the Langhorne Methodist. They sent representatives to see Bishop Allen to intercede about supplying them with ministers and joining the connection. They were received with great pleasure and Edward Jackson was licensed as a Local Elder, and John Mefser as a Minister. Bishop Allen according to records, visited the church the same year.

The Church had been remodeled from a log cabin, to a small church in 1851, and the center of African Methodist in Bucks County, Mt. Gilead, Buckingham, Moriah, New Hope, Pa., were put on a circuit under Langhorne. Bethlehem has been standing as a Lighthouse, on the same location through the years since 1809.

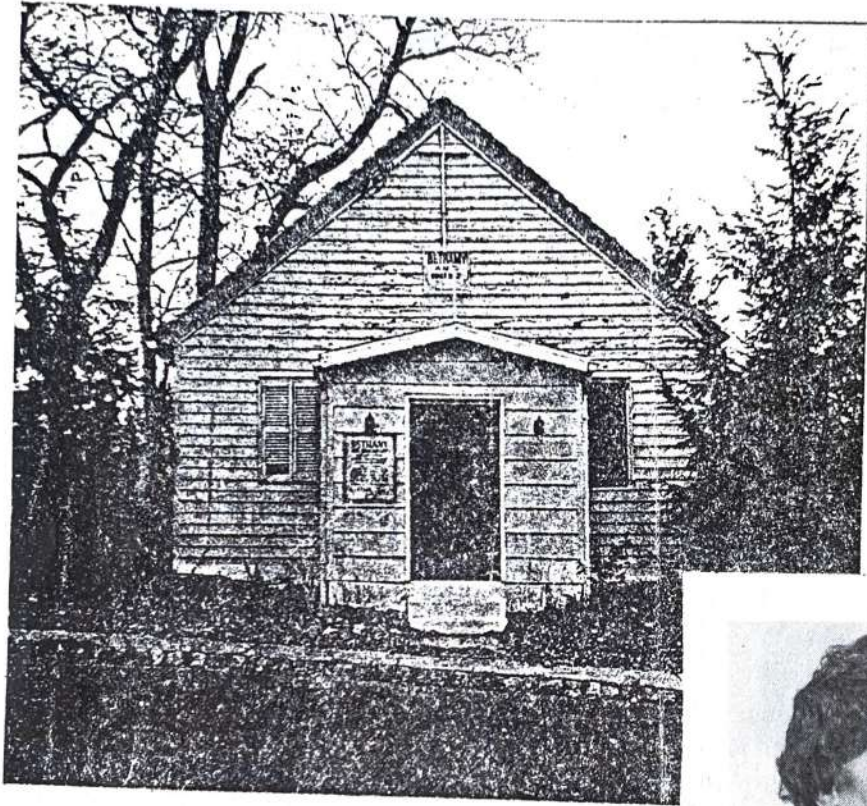


Rev. A. L. Caesar
Pastor

Bethany

A.M.E. Church—Holmesburg, Pennsylvania

1837-1976



Rev. Rachel Scott
Pastor

The little white frame church on the hill has a great and varied history and has held the lives of many families—many have been Christened here, have worshipped “Jehovah the Great Protector” here, and have lived and died in the great circle of life.

Everything was designed and built by the master craftsman, Elias Chase, who is buried in the little church grave yard next to the church; he died in 1858. The little church was named Bethany A.M.E. Church and the name has been carried ever since.

The church has been a great fortress for the Black people in the area. It is approximately 136 years old and was erected about 1837. The Black community (the area of Holmes Circle) was established about 250 years ago according to the older maps of colonial Philadelphia. The date shown is 1720 and it was called the village of Harrisburg, Ashtonville.

Murphy

A.M.E. Church—Chester, Pennsylvania

1870-1976



Rev. Philip A. Accoe, Sr.
Pastor



In the year 1870, seventeen persons were worshipping in a school at Third and Jeffrey Sts. The minister at that time was Rev. William Murphy. Seeing the need for a church, Rev. Murphy secured a donation from the late Judge William Broomall to purchase a lot on Engle Street. This being done, Rev. Murphy and the members built a neat little chapel on this lot in 1871, one year later. After the building of the new chapel, a \$5.00 gold piece, donated by Mrs. Lucretia Hall was placed in the corner stone. The first worship service held in the new church was in May, 1872, Bishop Wayman presided. After Rev. Murphy's pastorate, a long line of ministers pastored Murphy Church. Many ups and downs have occurred during the life of Murphy A.M.E. Church. The pastors and members have worked faithfully and untiringly to make this history possible.

Rev. Donald G. Ming, a former pastor, will go down in Murphy's history. He was the one who led Murphy to financial security, by leaving over \$10,000.00 in the bank for the building of a New Murphy Church. He also led the church to purchase the lot on 7th and Yarnall Streets. In thirteen months the lot was paid for at a cost of \$12,000.00. The ground-breaking ceremony was also a memorable occasion during Rev. Ming's administration. Mrs. Edith Ming was responsible for training the Fellowship Choir and reorganization of the Ellen Tyree Missionary Society. During the pastorate of Rev. A. Lewis Williams, our church gained new spiritual height. We shall always remember the first twenty-four hour prayer vigil.

In May of 1972, we here at Murphy were again blessed when the Rev. Philip A. Accoe, Sr. was assigned to us. Since he assumed this assignment, a \$12,000 note on the new building has been liquidated, the mortgage reduced substantially and paid three-months in advance of due date, the lower level has been completed, and a contract negotiated with the Chester Upland School District for an Alternative School on the lower level, which brings \$6,000 additional yearly income to the church, a Scholarship Fund has been established and major fund raising activities have reached a record high. We have been blessed with over sixty new members. We the members of Murphy, are proud of our heritage, but we seek from God the strength, the vision, and the dedication that will enable us to make the future of Murphy even more glorious than the past.

Bensalem

A.M.E. Church—Bridgewater, Bucks County, Pennsylvania

1820-1976



Rev. W. H. Cannon
Pastor

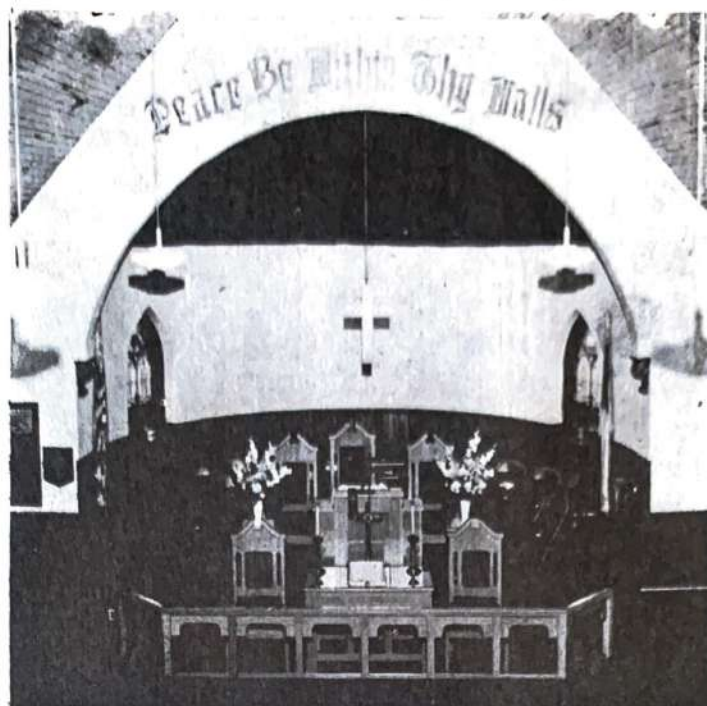
The Bensalem A.M.E. Church is said to be one of the oldest Negro churches in America, dating back to 1820. Bensalem was founded by the Reverend James Miller under the supervision of Richard Allen, founder of African Methodism and the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in American and in the City of Philadelphia.

Under the astute guidance and pastorate of the Reverend John Bulter, a Sabbath School was established in 1848. Bensalem A.M.E. Church is still located in the same spot on which it was originally founded. In 1896, the original building was remodeled during the pastorate of the Reverend George W. Gibbs.

The records show that ninety pastors have passed this way with the Reverend William H. Cannon serving as the present pastor. God has blessed us to keep the doors of Bensalem A.M.E. Church opened.

Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Darby, Pennsylvania



1873-1976

Our first pastor was the late Rev. Richard Barney, who died at the age of 70 years and, at his request, was interred in the church yard. Meetings were held in Penn Hall (built in 1842 and demolished in 1975) until the congregation purchased the present site. Approximately thirty-five pastors have served Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church from its inception to the present time, all of whom worked diligently, together with the membership, and who were dedicated to the cause of African Methodism. The stained glass windows were donated by persons whose names appear on them, many in memory of deceased relatives.

In gathering historical data it was found that the following persons put liens against their own properties for the erection of the church: the Kemp family, Mrs. Burch, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Rollins, Mr. and Mrs. James Wells, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. White.

During the years 1911 to 1916 the second floor was added to the edifice at a cost of \$4500.00



Rev. Leon J. Burnham
Pastor

plus \$211.00 for the stained glass windows. On October 23, 1900 the parsonage was purchased. For much of the historical data, we are indebted to the Estate of Miss Henrietta Ray, as the old documents were found between pages of the Ray's family Bible. Miss Ray endowed Mt. Zion Church with a bequest of \$500, which was used as the initial payment on our Hamond organ. From the year 1916 to 1921, the second mortgage was paid off and all current bills paid. The membership increased to 147.

Our present pastor, Rev. Leon J. Burnham, has brought an enthusiastic approach to church

affairs and the membership is responding warmly. Extensive repairs have been made at the parsonage and, with the whole-hearted cooperation of every organization and Board, the parsonage was furnished and the pastor and his family were able to move into an attractive home.

Truly, we can say, "We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord," and we continue to look to Him with greater hope for the future.

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Atlantic City, New Jersey

1870-1976



Rev. William L. Cody
Pastor

St. James A.M.E. Church has its beginning in the 70's and was influenced by the population of the island, which was then known as the Absecon Island, and was truly a Summer Resort. Negroes from the progressive inland cities began coming to the resort to work for the season and later to settle permanently. Their numbers grew and soon they felt strong enough to have their own church. In 1875 Atlantic City was twenty-one years old and the New Jersey A.M.E. Conference three years old. Bishop James A. Shorter, the first Bishop, sent Rev. Jeremiah H. Pierce from Philadelphia. The church was then known as Bethel A.M.E. Church located on Delaware Avenue. In 1884 the church moved to its present location with 105 members and the name changed to St. James A.M.E. Church. It was uphill journey until 1921 when Dr. Albert C. Sanders was assigned to St. James. Under his leadership the church paid off the \$3,000.00 balance on the parsonage mortgage, \$16,000.00 church mortgage, held its first "Mortgage Burning," widened the choir loft and changed its entrance, organized Stewardess Board B, Busy Bee Club, and Men's Club and Ladies Auxiliary. A long period of progressive development began in 1928-31 despite the depression.

In 1972 God sent St. James a new leader, the Rev. William L. Cody. Right away he went to work to make our church a seven-day beehive of activity with a pastor who is accessible to all. Pastor Cody first showed his love for us by making possible the purchase of a new station wagon to transport senior citizens to and from church. New clubs organized under his leadership are the A.M.E. Men's Club, Stewardess Board No. 2, Cody Starlites, Vacation Club and the Junior Stewards have been reorganized. A Couples' Club and Women's Club are in the making. Under Pastor Cody the ownership of Bright's Villa, North and South, low and moderate income housing project valued at two and a half million dollars, was transferred to St. James. New records have been set in raising money for Men's Day and Women's Day. A historic first came about when Rev. Cody led us in a Benefit Banquet for the Atlantic City Hospital with its name on the door. Plans have been implemented for the liquidation of the mortgage on the parsonage and the \$50,000.00 indebtedness incurred when the St. James Apts. were purchased under the previous administration.

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Newark, New Jersey



1842-1976

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, originally known as Bethel A.M.E. was organized about 1842 by Rev. C. Birch with humble beginning in a building on Green Street. From 1842 to 1888 the congregation worshipped in many places, some of which were as follows: A church in Arlington Street; a hall at Market and Washington Streets; a hall on Broad Street, the present site of the Central Railroad Station; and twice in Alhambra Hall at 73 New Street near Washington Street. While at Alhambra Hall the affairs of the church became so involved that we decided to disband, but only for a short duration, for the congregation immediately reorganized under the name of St. James A.M.E. Church.

Rev. William H. Giles was our pastor when St. James congregation secured a church building on Union Street. This remained our home until 1945. St. James has had a succession of notable pastor who were viz: Rev. Derrick, Rev. J. T. Diggs, Rev. J. T. Rex, Rev. Ayler, Rev. W. H. Giles, Rev. J. V. Peyton, Rev. H. C. Ashley, Rev. H. P. Anderson, Rev. O. Davis, Rev. R. French Hurley, Rev. A. A. Collins, Rev. H. K. Spearman, Rev. Carl Flipper, Rev. Cummings, Rev. D. J. Brown, Rev. R. C. Fisher, Rev. C. S. Spivey, Rev. H. N. Newsome, Rev. A. C. Saunders, Rev. Joseph Slade, Rev. Mansfield E. Jackson and Rev. Eustace L. Blake.

The present pastor, Rev. Deloney M. Owens was appointed by Bishop John D. Bright, May 15, 1966. Rev. Owens was previously the Presiding Elder of the Newark District of the New Jersey Annual Conference. He has been at the helm of this great church for ten years. Under his leadership the church has grown spiritually and materially and has successfully sponsored a 20-story housing project at a cost of \$6,000,000.00.



Rev. Deloney M. Owens
Pastor

Macedonia

A.M.E. Church—Camden, New Jersey



1832-1976

Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1832 largely through the efforts of Mrs. Annie George, a devout woman who held prayer meetings from house to house. The first church was erected in 1833 but this building was destroyed by fire in 1837. A more spacious building was erected in 1850. The present building was erected during the pastorate of the Rev. A. H. Newton. This church was dedicated by Bishop Campbell. After years of struggling under heavy financial burdens the mortgage was burned during the pastorate of the Rev. H. K. Spearman.

During the pastorate of the Rev. R. B. Smith the church was renovated and a pipe organ was installed. During the pastorate of the Rev. D. M. Owens a new roof was installed and the pipe organ was completely overhauled. During the pastorate of the Rev. C. C. Blake a part of the church was renovated and a parsonage was purchased. Macedonia Gardens, a 64-unit low rent housing project was erected for Macedonia A.M.E. Church during Rev. Vernon R. Byrd's pastorate. During the administration of the Rev. Jesse F. Owens a new parsonage was purchased and dedicated January 11, 1976 by the Right Rev. Ernest L. Hickman, Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District. Rev. Jesse E. Owens, M.Div., has served as our pastor since 1970.



Rev. Jesse F. Owens
Pastor

Ebenezer

A.M.E. Church—Rahway, New Jersey

1826-1976



Rev. Rudolph Gibbs
Pastor



Ebenezer A.M.E. Church was organized in September, 1826. The first pastor was Rev. Christopher Voorhis, the organizer. The record for the first few years is fragmentary, but from this record it is found that Rev. Daniel A. Payne, Rev. J. A. Shorter, Rev. A. W. Wayman, Rev. Paul Quinn and Rev. J. B. Campbell, all of whom later became Bishops, served this church in the capacity of pastor or supply. Meetings were held at various places until 1829 when thirty or more families of "free persons of colour" procured the site on Central Avenue in Rahway and erected a building for public worship. Rev. Rudolph P. Gibbs became the present pastor in September, 1975.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Millville, New Jersey



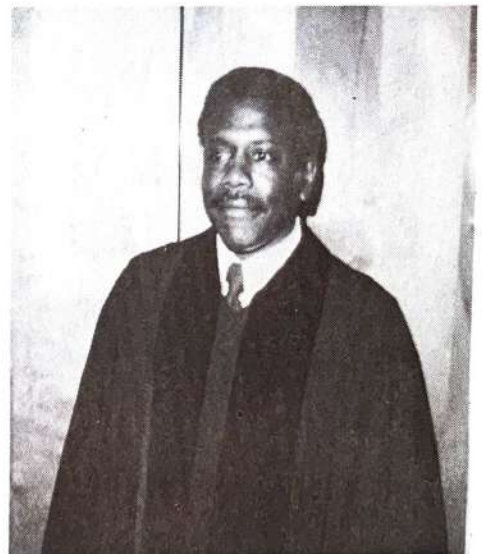
1864-1976

The church was organized by the Reverend W. M. Watson. It was built by Joshua Woodlin in 1864 on property immediately in back of its present location.

Earlier the church was called Corse Chapel, having taken the name from Brother William Corse, in whose home worship services were held after the organization and before the church was built. The Corse home was located on the northeast corner of Fifth and Garrison. He was very influential and recieved much encouragement from the townspeople to build a church. The community aided in securing several hundreds of dollars to complete the structure. All of this was accomplished at Mr. Corse's advanced age of seventy-three. He was full of race and church pride.

The membership of sixteen had grown to ninety-two by 1874. Reverend T. J. Oliver was pastor at the time when the congregation felt the need of a new building. This dream was not accomplished because of the lack of sufficient funds, and so it was decided to move the old church from Smith Street to its present location on the southeast corner of Smith and Fifth Streets.

Reverend Moses B. Sheppard was serving as pastor at the time the cornerstone was laid in 1908. It was at that time the name Corse Chapel was changed to Bethel African Medthodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Alvin M. Stokes is the present pastor.



Rev. Alvin M. Stokes
Pastor

Jacobs Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Mt. Laurel, New Jersey



1813-1976

The founding of a house of worship and ultimately leading to the establishment of the present Jacobs Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church apparently had its origin about the year 1813. It began with the acquisition of a small parcel of land comprising about one-sixth hundredth of an acre located on the north side of Colemantown Road in Evesham township. The road is presently known as Lumberton Road in the township of Mt. Laurel. Shortly thereafter a small one story wooden building was relocated from elsewhere and set on the land. The building was approximately forty feet by twenty feet. It might be added that the size of the land was barely sufficient to contain the building. This structure was known as the Colemantown Meeting House. Both black and white worshiped there, however, not much is known concerning the activities carried on there.

In the year 1840 on June 15, this same piece of land was formally deeded from a Charles C. Green and his wife Elizabeth for the sum of four dollars to Charles Coleman, William Bassett, Henry A. Wilson, Stephen Johnson and William Muse as trustees for the purpose of erecting a house or place of worship for the use of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America according to the rules and discipline of said Church. Under the terms of the grant, whatever house built on the lot of land was to be utilized solely as a place of worship for the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church or for the purpose of having a school taught therein. Any other uses of same renders this grant invalid.

Many of the descendants of early members still attend Jacobs Chapel. As a matter of fact more than seventy-five percent of them are related to these early pioneers. The names Gaines and Still appeared on the earliest records of the church, they appear on the records of the present day.



Rev. & Mrs. Morris L. Sims

Mt. Pisgah

A.M.E. Church—Lawnside, New Jersey

1792-1976



Rev. H. P. Speights
Pastor

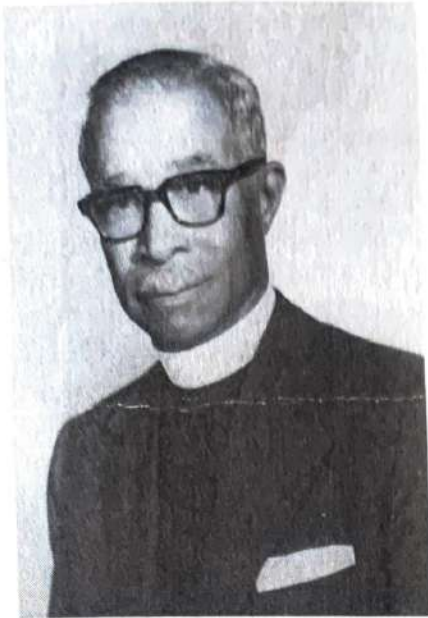
A Centennial Badge owned by Rev. Frances R. Goodman lists the organization date of Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church as 1792, however the anniversary of the church was not celebrated until 1897. A plot of ground at the corner of Masion and Mouldy Roads, purchased in 1808, provided a site for the first church. The congregation formed an incorporated body and was served by two local preachers, including Rev. Richard Allen, and later by Circuit Riders. When Rev. Richard Allen began his movement to create African Methodism, the white members withdrew thus causing a division of the races. Shortly thereafter (1815) the remaining Black members divided. The group that withdrew, organized the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. The remaining twelve presons became incorporated as the Methodist Society of Black People. They began to grow in number and organized a Sunday School in 1847 under the leadership of John H. Jackson.

On July 12, 1868, the old church was replaced by a second, larger in size. In 1872, Mt. Pisgah became a charter member of the A.M.E. conference. A daughter church was initiated in Haddonfield, N.J. in 1887. In 1911, under the pastorate of Rev. I. C. Horsey, the second church was replaced by a larger more modern edifice. In 1933, the congregation of Mt. Pisgah was split, due to the removal of its pastor, Rev. J. H. Hartley. He left the conference, and with his followers, initiated an independent church, which is now the St. Luke U.A.M.E. Church of Lawnside, N.J. Mt. Pisgah struggled under the loss, but began a new growth, and accomplished many improvements, including renovation of the church in 1968. A fire on April 27, 1970, damaged the building extensively, but with the help of God, many friends and well wishers, the building was restored. Rev. H. Palmer Speights is the present pastor.

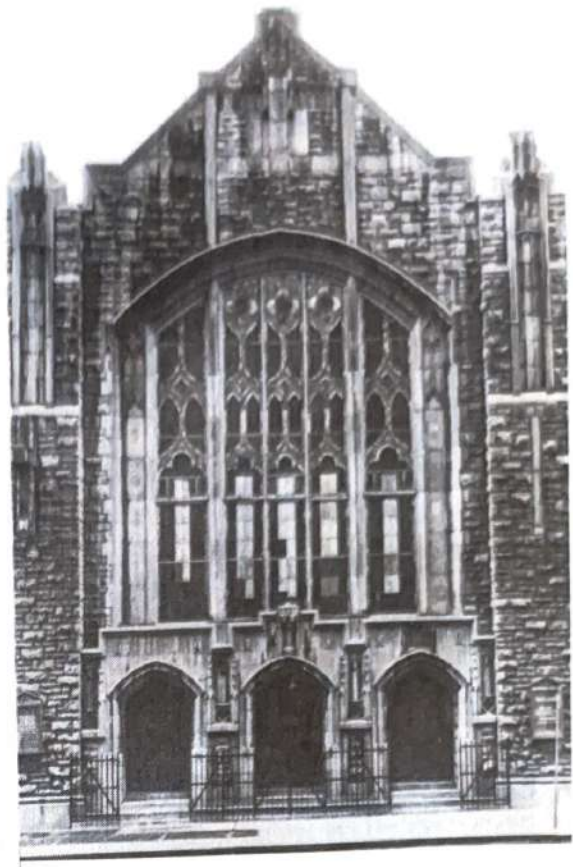
Bethel

A.M.E. Church—New York City

1819-1976



Rev. Henderson R. Hughes
Pastor



One hundred and fifty-six years ago Bishop Richard Allen sent the Rev. William Lambert of the Philadelphia Conference to New York City to organize an independent church to be directly under control of Negroes. Twenty persons united with Rev. Lambert and a school room on Mott Street was leased for a period of seven years and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized. The church experienced some difficulty in getting permanently situated, and after moving several times to other rooms, the faithful members secured property on Second Street. In 1862 they sold the Second Street property for \$8,000 and purchased a church on Sullivan Street for \$25,000 making a down payment of \$4,000. The attendance increased and the church prospered.

After worshipping for eleven years on Sullivan Street, Rev. Williams suggested that the church move uptown. After much debate it was decided that the church would remain on Sullivan and at this time it was enlarged at a cost of \$35,000. In 1880 the vicinity began to lose its Black population. For ten years Bethel struggled under difficult and fearful odds. The Rev. Derrick was sent to Bethel and under his powerful leadership impending doom was stayed for a time. Strife arose again and the Conference sent two able men, Rev. Hurley and Rev. Stanberry to convince Rev. Derrick to move the church. In 1894 Bishop Tanner sent Rev. J. M. Henderson with instructions to move the church within eight months. They sold their present site and secured a Brown Stone structure on 25th Street. The next move was to 5460 West 132nd Street where ground was broken on May 18, 1913.

The first service in Bethel on West 132nd Street (the present location) was held on September 13, 1913 at 6:30 a.m., when the Rev. Wigfall led a prayer service and at 10:30 a.m. the morning worship began. Bishop Tyree delivered the message. In 1965 Bishop Bright appointed the Rev. Henderson R. Hughes to the pastorate of Bethel. Under his leadership, Bethel Manor, an apartment building at 50 West 132nd Street, was built and now serves the community.

Bridge Street

A.M.E. Church—Brooklyn, New York

1776-1976



Rev. William P. Foley, Sr.
Pastor



Mrs. Irene M. Foley

HISTORY OF BRIDGE STREET A.M.E. CHURCH

Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the largest and oldest black churches is celebrating its 210th anniversary this year. This great church pastored by Rev. William P. Foley, Sr. is located at 277 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Started from an open air missionary ministry in 1766 conducted by a Wesleyan British Army Captain, Thomas Webb, and later carried on by Mr. Wolman Hickman, the congregation was comprised of Caucasians, free Negroes, and ex-slaves. In 1794, the followers of Thomas Webb and Wolman Hickman purchased the piece of land on which the open air services were held from Joshua Sands. There they built Sands St. Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church which was the beginning of the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church. Under Reverend Cyrus Stebbins the congregation grew to capacity and in 1810 a new church, renamed First Methodist Episcopal Church of Brooklyn, had 1500 members.

At this point it is important to note that in 1766-1794 the Wesleyan open air services of Captain Web and Wolman Hickman, chief support came from free Negroes and ex-slaves. However, with the establishment of churches, the Caucasian membership rapidly outnumbered the Negroes. But between 1810 and 1817, the Negro membership increased so rapidly that the restricted galleries could not accommodate them.

Matters deteriorated so far that the Caucasian brethren charged the Negroes \$10.00 per quarter to worship in the same confined galleries. The Negroes decided the time had come to acquire their own place of worship. As a result of that fateful decision, the Negroes withdrew in a body from the First Methodist Church. Temporarily, services were held at different persons' homes. Records show that the Negroes were thinking of building their own church from 1812. A meeting was held on May 14, 1817 to arrange for the purchase of a building with the members agreeing to pay a certain percent each month toward the building fund. In the fall of 1817, a rally brought in a grand total of \$130.00. Eventually, two lots were purchased on the east side of High Street between Bridge and Jay Streets. Here was built the High Street Church—our very own place of worship.

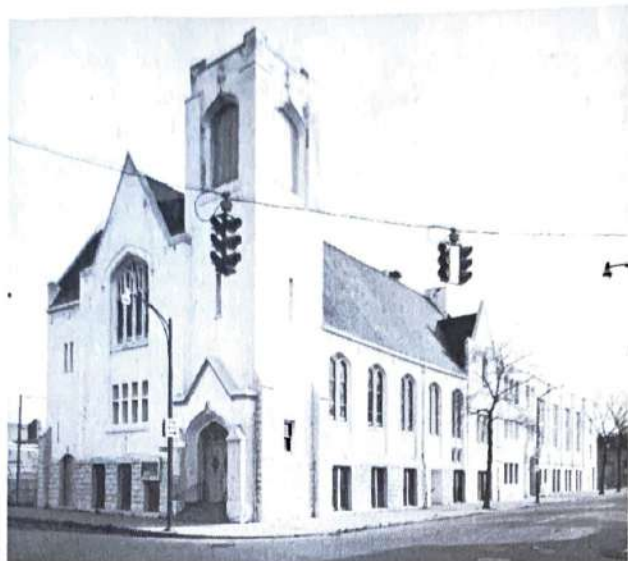
On January 12, 1818, the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated with the following trustees: Peter Croger, Benjamin Croger, Israel Jemison, Ceasar Sprong and John E. Jackson. The membership grew and once again the members were looking for a larger place of worship. So, on June 12, 1854, they were able to purchase the church at 209 Bridge Street; there the slaves were housed, fed, and cared for and slept on the basement floor. Whenever there was a fear of them being detected in the building, they were put into the church cellar where the brick walls, still in tact, acted as a strong barrier against Southern crackers.

In their idle moments they carved a man into the stone floor in the cellar and he is still there. After they were safely brought to Brooklyn, they were later moved into Canada at an opportune time.

Bridge Street has always been a champion of civil rights and has always been insistent about ideas and ideals believed to be right. The present pastor is Rev. William Paul Foley, Sr.; William J. King is deputy Chairman of the Steward Board and Isaiah Gadsden is Chairman of the Trustee Board.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Buffalo, New York



1831-1976

The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized on April 28, 1831, and is the oldest Negro congregation in Buffalo, New York. Bethel's facilities were used as underground railroad stops for slaves fleeing from the South before and after the Civil War. There have been four changes in location: the first was on Washington and Carroll Streets, then Vine Street; the third was on Eagle Street and the present location is on the corner of Michigan and East Ferry Streets.

A Reverend Williams organized the church in 1831, but between 1904 and 1907, under the pastorage of a Rev. Mr. Johnson, the church split. The members who left Bethel organized themselves into the St. Luke A.M.E. Zion and Lords Memorial Congregational Churches of this city. It was during 1927 to 1935, under the pastorage of Rev. M. E. Jackson, that the church was moved from Vine Street to Eagle Street. Between 1941 and 1948 Rev. D. Ormonde Walker established the Church in the heart of the city and in surrounding communities. From Bethel's pulpit, with the enthusiastic support of this congregation, he was elected one of the Bishops of the A.M.E. Church.

During 1965-1976, under the leadership of Rev. G. Grant Crumpley, who came from Flushing, New York, rich with 17 years experience as a pastor, much progress was made. Under his energetic determination, six new pieces of property were acquired at: (1) 174 Jewett Parkway (Parsonage), (2) 125 Waverly Street, (3) 122 Waverly Street, (4) 12 Waverly Street, (5) 100 Glenwood, and (6) 45 East Ferry St.

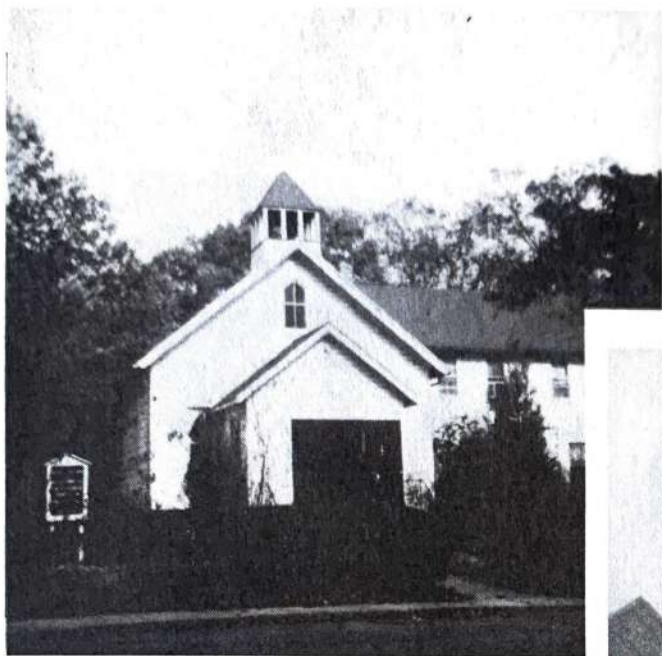
New construction includes the E. L. Hickman Progression Center, which is architecturally designed for a day-care center for children of working mothers. The Center can be utilized for Christian Education Programs and other forums. All properties have now been renovated and refurnished with new equipment and furnishings. Outstanding is the spiritual and stewardship growth. Presently, the annual budget of operation is \$425,000, which includes \$242,000 grant monies from the federal government. More than 6,000 members have been recorded.



Rev. G. Grant Crumpley
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Setaukey, Long Island, NY



1815-1976



Rev. & Mrs. Paul J. Morrison
and Son, John Wesley Morrison

It is not established when Bethel A.M.E. Church of Setaukey was founded. However, in 1815, when the Town of Brookhaven deeded to Mr. Slatterly, the local miller of the time, a wooded lot to be used for maintaining the mill and dams, it was specifically stated that this plot was bounded on the west by the "Laurel Hill Cemetery" (the old cemetery on the hill across from the present church).

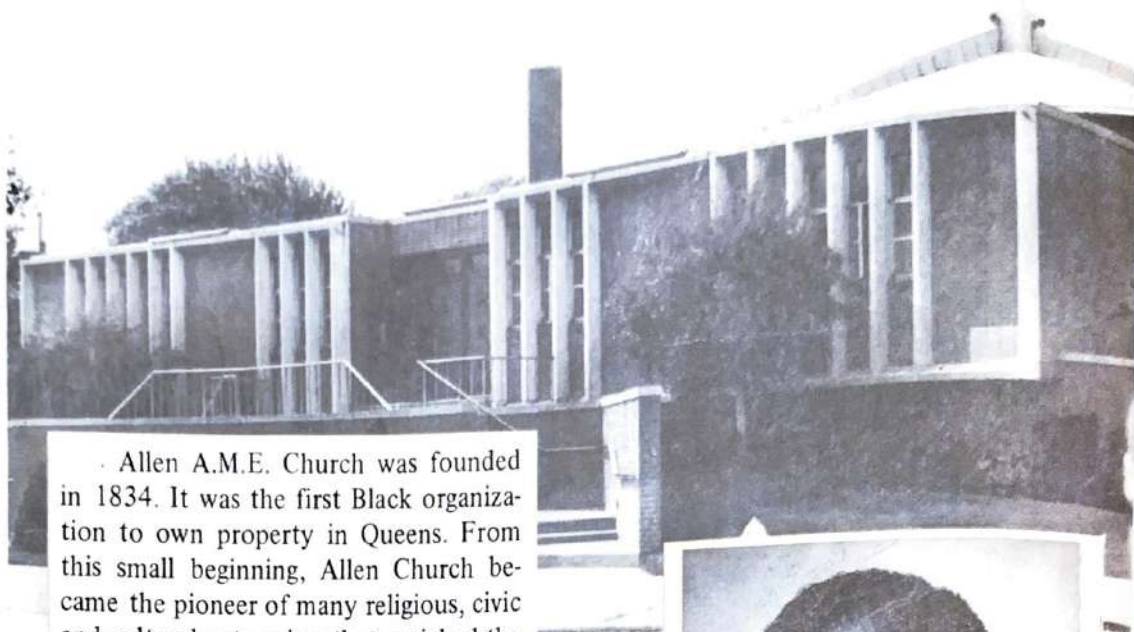
The present site of the Bethel A.M.E. Church at the corner of Christian and Locust Avenues was acquired in 1874. The Church was destroyed by fire in 1909 and under the pastorate of Rev. J. D. Jackson. At the May session of the Annual Conference, Rev. Jackson was succeeded by Rev. F. M. Harper, who in the fall started to rebuild and finally erected the present church and living quarters. A stone or slab in the upper front of the building bears the marking, "Built in 1848."

The church had twenty-seven pastors including the present pastor, Rev. Paul J. Morrison. All of the Pastors have made contributions of which the present Pastor is the recipient. The Church has grown numerically and financially. Rev. Morrison had Bishop E. L. Hickman to break ground, May 17, 1975, hopefully to start building an all-purpose building in the Spring of 1976.

Allen

A.M.E. Church—Jamaica, New York

1834-1976



Allen A.M.E. Church was founded in 1834. It was the first Black organization to own property in Queens. From this small beginning, Allen Church became the pioneer of many religious, civic and cultural enterprises that enriched the lives of the people of Jamaica, New York.

In 1840 it built its first church, which served both as a religious center and schoolhouse for Black children. On this site three additional buildings were erected. Since its inception, Allen has been blessed by many great pastors and pulpiteers.

In 1963, under the pastorate of Dr. Emmer Booker, the congregation voted to relocate and purchase the site on Merrick Blvd. and Sayers Ave., to erect a new church and educational center.

In 1964, the present pastor, Dr. Donald G. Ming, was assigned. Under his pastorate the church has expanded and become a vital part of the community. The new church building was erected, a parsonage was purchased, and an acre and a half of additional land was purchased and paid for. The Day Care Center, Senior Citizen's Center, Summer Day Camp and an after-school Teen Center were organized. The mortgage on the present facility is soon to be liquidated. Over 1,530 persons have been added to the membership. The Allen A.M.E. Church is symbolic of its African Methodist heritage, "God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and Man our Brother."



Rev. Donald G. Ming
Pastor

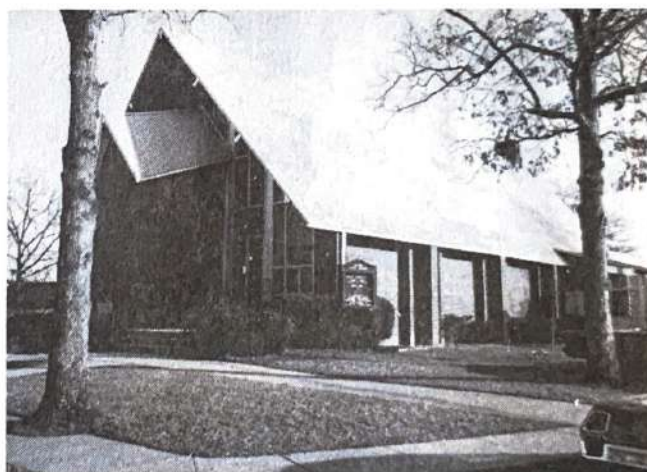
Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Copiague, New York

1815-1976



The Church in 1850.



The Church today.

Bethel AME Church is the oldest Black church on Long Island. The Sunday School was started in 1814. The Sunday School also is the oldest Black School on the Island. In 1815, three men met in the home of Daniel Squires to start a church. After this small beginning, they continued to hold Sunday Services in each other's homes for over fifteen years. In 1839, Elias Hunter deeded the old site on Albany Avenue to the congregation. Five years later, they were given an old icehouse and they worshipped there. The first pastor was Benjamin Bates, grandfather of the Late Charles A. Holmes. He traveled on foot from Jamaica each week to serve them. The first parsonage was built in 1904 at Albany Avenue. After many sacrifices under the leadership of the Rev. John W. Lee, the members worshipped in the new church on Palm Sunday, 1967. Soon after, a new parsonage was built across from the church. Fifty-one ministers have pastored this church since the beginning. The present pastor is Rev. Simon P. Bowe.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Huntington, New York

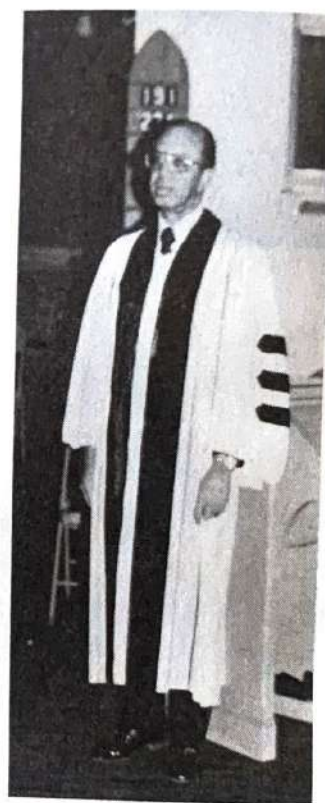
1843-1976



The early records of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was destroyed by fire many years ago. Therefore, the detailed circumstances relative to its founding are uncertain. Nevertheless, according to oral tradition Bethel has its roots in prayer meetings, which were held in the homes of some of the citizens of Huntington over 132 years ago. In the meantime, it has been verified by records at Riverhead, N.Y. that in 1843 the Church was incorporated. In November 1844, the Congregation purchased the plot where our present edifice stands. There was a building on this plot called "The Seminary." This building was more or less, an educational building for The Methodist Church. Sunday School and class meetings were held there for the parishioners who lived in the Harbor section.

The original name of our church was Ebenezer. However, in about 1844, the name was changed to The First African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is not clear as to just when the name Bethel was adopted.

At present Bethel is continuing to march forward under the shared leadership of its very efficient officers and loyal members. It is our avowed conscious purpose to hold high the torch of the love of Christ, with a profound faith that ultimately it will dispel the shadows of hate and brighten the pathway of those who walk in darkness. "God is Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer and Man Our Brother." Rev. Vernon Lowe is our present pastor.



Rev. Vernon Lowe
Pastor

Macedonia

A.M.E. Church—Flushing, New York
1810-1976



Rev. William D. Watley
Pastor



In 1810, the Macedonia Methodist Episcopal Church Society was organized on the present site. This was the third organized church to be established in Flushing. The congregation consisted of Indians, Negroes and White people, who registered as regular attendants. From 1810 to 1822, various white Elders were assigned to the church.

In 1822, Macedonia Church withdrew from the Conference of Methodist Episcopal Church Society because the conference re-

fused to license Negro ministers. The same year Macedonia allied itself with the African Methodist Episcopal Church under the supervision of Rev. Richard Allen, founder and first Bishop.

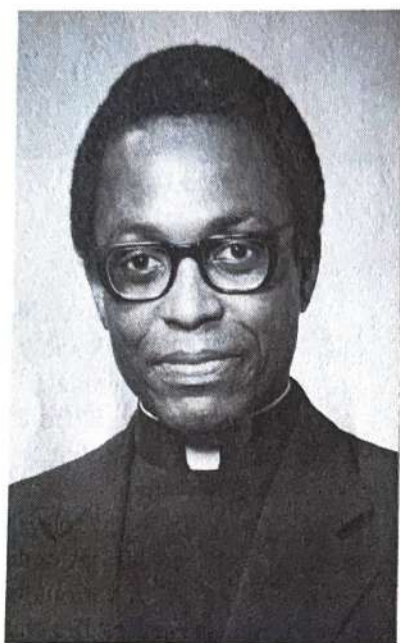
On July 7th, 1822, the first Quarterly Conference was held at the local church with Rev. Henry Harden of Baltimore, presiding. The Rev. Stephen Dutton became the first Elder in charge. A long line of capable men followed him. In 1900, the Rev. C. J. Lawton, a well educated man, was appointed as pastor. Under his brilliant leadership, a new church was built, Rev. Lawton doing much of the work himself. This building cost \$7,000 and had a capacity of five hundred. In 1928, the Reverend William McKinley Dawkins was appointed as pastor of Macedonia. In 1929, the church purchased a parsonage to house its ministers and their families, and in 1931 the erection of a new brick building was undertaken. A new edifice of brick was constructed because the membership of Macedonia grew so large that the building could not accomodate the people.

Macedonia has had a number of ministers who served her well. Two of her pastors became Bishops: William Paul Quinn, who served from 1821-1824, and Jabez P. Campbell. Another historically interesting fact of Macedonia is that she was used as one of the stops of the underground railroad. We are proud of the heritage of our church and we are thankful to God for our present. It is with a great sense of expectation and faith that we anticipate greater things in the future.

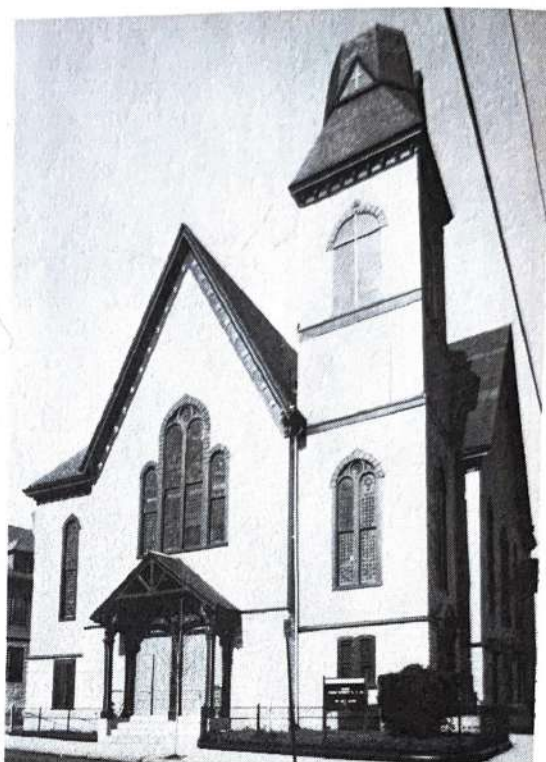
St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—Cambridge, Massachusetts

1873-1976



Rev. John E. Brandon
Pastor



Cambridge, like many other cities in the North had an influx of Black people from the South, Nova Scotia, and Canada. There were no Black churches in Cambridge and many devout people had to cross the Charles River to attend Church or go to a white church in Cambridge. The Holy Spirit moved so fervently among them that they felt the need for a place where they could worship together and give vent to the Holy Spirit as He moved from heart to heart. Brother Henry Buckner, who had the largest house, opened up his Hastings Street home to all who wanted to come on Wednesday and Sunday evenings for prayer and song. Brother Andrew Dixon led the prayer service. They soon had crowds far beyond the capacity of Brother Buckner's home. There was land for sale nearby on the corner of Hastings and Portland Streets. The sisters and brothers felt the need and desire for church construction so strongly that they began to build and worship in the church as soon as the first floor was completed. Thus, the first Black church became a reality in the city of Cambridge.

In 1873, these far-seeing brothers and sisters sought and obtained admission to the A.M.E. Conference, and so became a part of the First Episcopal District. Many well known and outstanding ministers have served at St. Paul. The great contribution of the laymen in the church is most evident. We thank God for having brought us this far. Rev. John E. Brandon is our present pastor.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Springfield, Massachusetts

1849-1976



Dr. O. Urcille Ifille, Sr.
Pastor

From a mission church in 1849 to its incorporation with the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1877, Bethel A.M.E. Church, Springfield, has been a part of this community, administering to the whole community. Formerly located on Loring Street, Bethel suffered a severe fire on January 4, 1938, which destroyed the building on that property. On February 25, 1938, the Pendleton Avenue property was purchased. It was formally dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 19, 1938, under the pastorate of the Rev. Eustace L. Blake.

In May 1971, Bishop John D. Bright, Sr. assigned Dr. O. Urcille Ifill, Sr. to take over the destinies of Bethel Church. To date, under Doctor Ifill's leadership, a complete modernization of the sanctuary and parsonage has been accomplished. A new community kitchen has been built and equipped, the parsonage and church buildings have been rewired for efficient and safe electrical use, new modern rest rooms have replaced old-fashioned accommodations, parsonage and church have been redecorated, new carpets have been installed, heating system has been renovated, and insurance coverage was increased from \$75,000.00 to \$210,000.00. Our Young Peoples's Department now service 412 youngsters in a variety of programs and our Missionary Department is directly involved with Senior Citizens programs and home care for the sick and shut-in. We have hosted many community and State wide conferences on a variety of subjects, and our pastor is actively involved on our behalf in dozens of community organizations and programs designed to extend Bethel's outreach.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Smyrna, Delaware

1849-1976



In the year 1849 the Rev. Andrew Massey of Milton, Delaware organized as many persons as would to join the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This body of believers had been originally founded in Philadelphia by Richard Allen. From 1816 this branch of Methodism had spread. In 1849 it entered the Smyrna scene.

By 1851 these people were of sufficient force, and had enough money to erect a building on Monvovia, Avenue. The congregation grew until 1867. Then with a membership of above sixty person, a new Church was erected. It bore the name Bethel and was located on what was then called lower Commerce Street.

A Bethel Church Hall was soon erected. The first floor was used for religious education and the second floor was occupied by St. John's Masonic Lodge. In 1890 a Parsonage on Duck Creek Road was willed to the congregation by Rev. James Holland, an ex-pastor of Bethel. Charles Whaley, was first ordained minister from a Negro Church in Smyrna. Bethel has spiritually grown and prospered through the years. At present the membership is shepherded by the Rev. James H. Alford, Sr.

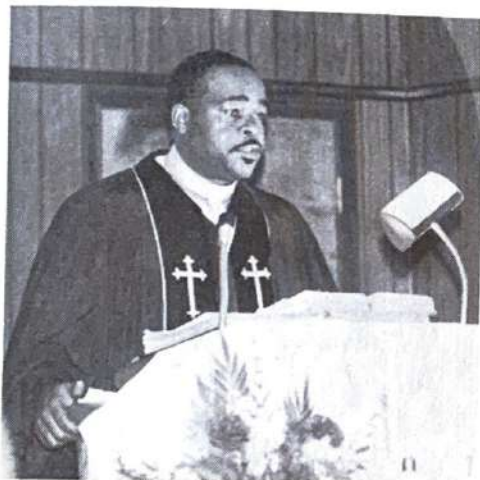


Rev. James H. Alford, Sr.
Pastor

St. George

A.M.E. Church—Lewes, Delaware

1816-1976



Rev. L. Walker
Pastor



We have no fear in saying that 141 years dates back to the first meeting house, April 9th, or 11th, 1816 in Lewestown, when our dear Bishop, Richard Allen, born in the year 1760, a slave boy, who through great difficulties established this great African Methodist Episcopal Church. Richard Allen going to and from his work, up and down the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal, held prayer meetings in a dwelling known as the meeting house in Leves.

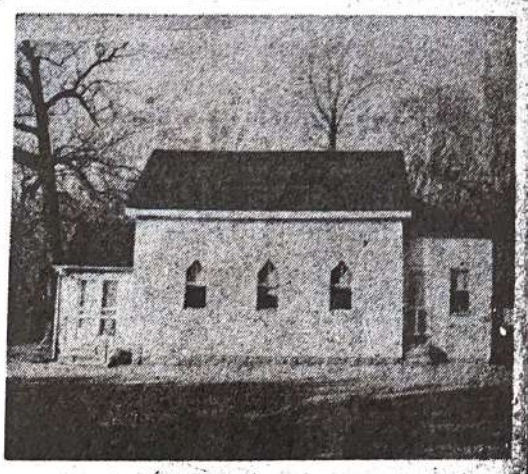
Later a corn crib was given by Mrs. Liza Ann Marshall and moved on a plot of land that is known today as Pilottown Road. The land was given by Peter Lewis as a church site. The corn crib was remodeled into a flat top building and used as a house of worship. The building was destroyed by fire, but the congregation did not lose faith in God. With the Sainted spirit of Bishop Allen, the church was rebuilt.

The land on Park Avenue where the church stands today, was donated by Hannah Burton, October 6, 1881. On June 1899, St. George A.M.E. church was incorporated. The new church was started by the Reverend R. L. Lawyer and finished by the Reverend J. W. Harris. The pastor, members and friends marched from the old church on Pilottown Road, to the new church on Park Avenue in June, 1930. On November 4, 1945, the Reverend George Sterling burned the first mortgage of our new church. Rev. L. Walker is our present pastor.

John Wesley

A.M.E. Church—Frederica, Delaware

1845-1976



John Wesley African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in the year of our Lord, 1845. It was rebuilt October, 1883. Its founder was Thomas Mason and Rev. Peter Loper was the Elder in charge. The Annual Conference was held in Philadelphia. It was under the Wilmington District, East Frederica Charge and the Presiding Elder was J. B. Stansberg, D.D.

Thus our church, according to documents, is 130 years old. When the late Rev. M. E. Harmon served us we built our vestibule and laid the cornerstone which bears his name. We are mindful of the fact that it was during the dark days of slavery that our church was established.

Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Dover, Delaware

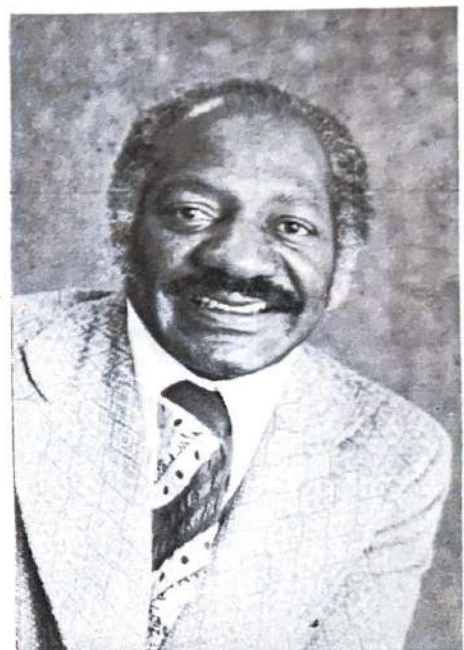
1876-1976



Many branches of the Methodist Church have been organized and developed since the cradle of Methodism began near Frederica, Delaware. This particular spot in America was named Barrett's Chapel. From the pattern of this chapel, the African Methodist Episcopal Church was expanded through the efforts and leadership of Richard Allen. The people of Dover were inspired to group themselves because of similar Christian beliefs. They continued meeting regularly until they decided to become permanently unified as a specific society of believers.

The Bethel A.M.E. Church was established in April 1876, and erected on Kirkwood Street, Dover, Delaware. The Society had about 80 members. The original Bethel A.M.E. Church is now located on the corner of Queen and Fulton Streets, in Dover, and is known as the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. It was dedicated September 27, 1959, by Bishop G. W. Baber and Rev. Donald Ming, pastor and builder. Twenty-four pastors have served Mt. Zion. The present pastor, Rev. R. W. Coleman, burned the mortgage, presided over by Bishop John D. Bright (May, 1972).

The original records of the organization of the A.M.E. Church known as Bethel A.M.E. Church are recorded and a certificate of incorporation may be found in the Court House, Kent County, Dover, Delaware.



Rev. R. W. Coleman
Pastor

St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—Hamilton, Bermuda



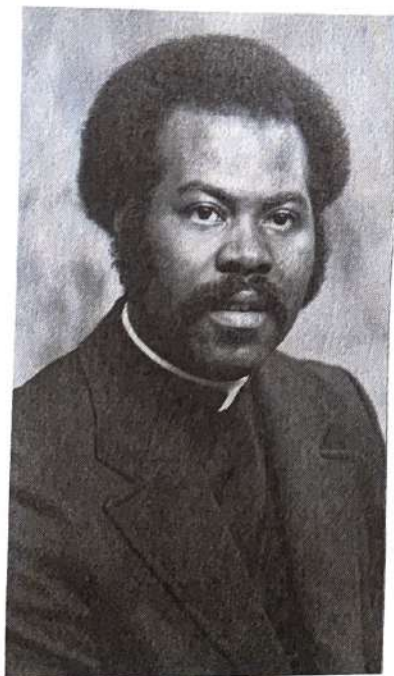
1870-1976

The history of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Hamilton, Bermuda, the "Mother Church" of African Methodism in Bermuda, is one of great interest, remunerative endeavors, and outstanding progress, for the beginning of African Methodism in Bermuda. It has many parallels to the birth of African Methodism in America. In 1870 a group of distinguished Black men, leading citizens of the community, seeking to better the conditions of their people and desirous of a place where they could worship God in dignity and honor and be respected as persons, invited Bishop Willis Nazrey of the British Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada to come to the island to discuss the possibility of establishing the B.M.E. Church on the island. In April, 1870 Bishop Nazrey visited the island and organized the people, promising to return in 1872. On his return in 1872, Bishop Nazrey brought with him the Rev. R. R. Morris who became the first pastor of St. Paul. From 1870 until 1885, St. Paul existed as a B.M.E. Church. However, upon learning of the labors of Richard Allen in the U.S.A., the members felt that the philosophy of Allen and religious doctrine of the A.M.E. Church were better suited to the spiritual and social needs of the people. Subsequently, the officials corresponded with the Bishop of the A.M.E. Church.

In 1885 Bishops Campbell and Disney came to the island to transact the merging, thus holding the first Bermuda Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Church on the island.

Noted for its high quality music, the St. Paul Senior Choir has long been acclaimed as one of the best on the island and in the church. In 1973 in commemoration of their 100th Anniversary, the choir toured the Eastern U.S.A., performing in many of the leading A.M.E. churches, among which was Mother Bethel.

Today St. Paul is continuing in its tradition of greatness and is moving to higher heights under the very dynamic leadership of its present pastor, the Rev. Parnell Mosley. Pastor Mosley, a native of Georgia and a graduate of Morris Brown College and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, is a man of great humility, a friend to all, and a unique and powerful preacher.



Rev. Parnell Mosley
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Baltimore, Maryland

1785-1976

In the City of Baltimore, and the State of Maryland, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has served as the "hallmark" of the Black struggle and her achievements have had local, state, national and international repercussions. In April, 1975, the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper in describing Bethel A.M.E. Church stated that it, "has led a life steeped in the history of the black community and its children."

Dating back to 1785, Bethel Church had its roots as a "Free African Society" consisting of a small group of black people who banded together and held prayer meetings and class meetings in homes. In 1787 the Society adopted the name "Bethel." In 1797, she became incorporated as African Methodist Bethel Church of Baltimore and a part of the A.M.E. Church in 1816.

History shows that five years before this great A.M.E. Church founded this congregation, Bethel received its charter from the Colonial government of Maryland. Bethel's first location was on Fish Street and its charter was under the pastorship of Reverend Daniel Coker. Daniel Coker wrote the first book ever published by a Black man in America. Coker was elected—but not consecrated—the first Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel's second location was on Saratoga Street. In 1910, under the pastorate of the Reverend Daniel G. Hill, Baltimore's first Black cathedral was purchased.

Bethel continues to move in its historical tradition under the young, electrifying, and deeply spiritual leadership of Reverend, Dr. John R. Bryant. Pastor Bryant is the son of Bishop Harrison J. Bryant, who himself served as pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church from 1948-1964.



Rev. John R. Bryant
Pastor

Mt. Moriah

A.M.E. Church—Annapolis, Maryland

1862-1976



Rev. R. H. Reed
Pastor

Mount Moriah African Methodist Episcopal Church is the direct outgrowth of a land purchase from Mr. Smith Price by John Wheller, George Martin, Samuel Hackney, Matthias Robertson, Francis Troy, John Forty, and Jacob Forty on December 6, 1803. Said property purchased for the use of the A.M.E. Church in Annapolis, Maryland. This attempt was under the rule of the Methodist Episcopal Church South and because of many hardships at the hands of the Methodist Episcopal Church did not long endure. Following the spirit of Richard Allen, in 1845 another attempt to organize was made by the Reverend John Lane. In 1862 the Reverend Lane was successful in his pursuits. An A.M.E. Meeting was begun in the basement of Marcellus Hall's house on historic Duke of Gloucester Street with seven numbers, they met with a considerable amount of opposition from the Methodist in Annapolis.

On June 19, 1863, the trustees of the A.M.E. Church of Annapolis, Maryland, purchased for the sum of \$900.00 a piece of ground upon which the old Mount Moriah stands today. A frame meeting house was built on this site and named Macedonia. By the year 1874 there was a great need for a larger building. The frame house was removed to Camp Parole and established as a missionary work. That work is known today as Mount Olive A.M.E. Church. In 1875 the new brick church was completed and the Reverend J. B. Hamilton, its pastor, suggested that the name Mount Moriah, in honor of the place where Abraham offered up Isaac as a sacrifice, be adopted.

The present church structure was built and dedicated under the pastorate of the Reverend Wesley B. Nash. It was dedicated on Saturday, January 13, 1973. Today Mount Moriah has a deep influence upon the civic affairs of Annapolis and under the present pastor, the Reverend Rodger Hall Reed, has experienced a rebirth and spiritual renewal. The congregation has been expanded by over three hundred new members in an eighteen month period. Mount Moriah has purchased and paid for a \$23,000 bus for its bus ministry. The new Mount Moriah is blazing a trail of Spiritual growth and influence upon the community of Annapolis in the fine tradition of African Methodism.

Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Atglen, Pennsylvania

1814-1976



In the year of 1814, a group of Negroes met at an old house in North Bend, now known as Christiana, and started a prayer meeting. Later the number of people grew, so they needed a larger place to worship. They were given a tract of land in West Sadsbury township, where they built a frame building and named it Mt. Zion.

The prayer meetings were led by Benjamin and Henry Cole. Most of the members of Mt. Zion are descendants of the founders of the church. The building was used as a help in the underground railroad for hiding run-away slaves. The door of the church was riddled by bullets by a Maryland slave-owner. This door is still here at Mt. Zion as a reminder of those days.

The first church was dedicated in 1815 by Bishop Richard Allen. In 1822 the church was moved to where it now stands. The deed of this property was signed by Benjamin Franklin and is still at the church.

The Rev. William Williams, a local preacher, and two other praying bands, walked the distance of 25 miles to reach Mt. Zion, sometimes carrying their shoes in their hands. The first pastor was Adam Driver, a Circuit Rider, who rode from Philadelphia and was able to preach at this station once a month. Reverend Lindsey, our pastor now, has been here for thirty-three years and all the members love him dearly. Under his leadership, much has been done to improve Mt. Zion.

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Minneapolis, Minnesota

1863-1976



St. James A.M.E. Church was established in 1863 at Minneapolis, Minnesota. The membership at the time of establishment was five devout Christians. St. James now has a membership of 100 faithful Christian, whose beautiful edifice of worship at 3600 Spelling Avenue, South, is a "long way" from the simple home the first members worshipped in. Rev. Charles J. Allen is the present pastor of St. James. Rev. C. Wesley Ellison is the Presiding Elder. St. James is a member of The Chicago Annual Conference.

St. Peter

A.M.E. Church—Minneapolis, Minnesota

1876-1976



St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1876 in a home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The membership at the time was 11. The congregation today consists of 686 members under the leadership of Rev. E. Alexander Hawkins. Our Presiding Elder is Rev. C. Wesley Ellison. St. Peter's is a member of the Chicago Annual Conference.

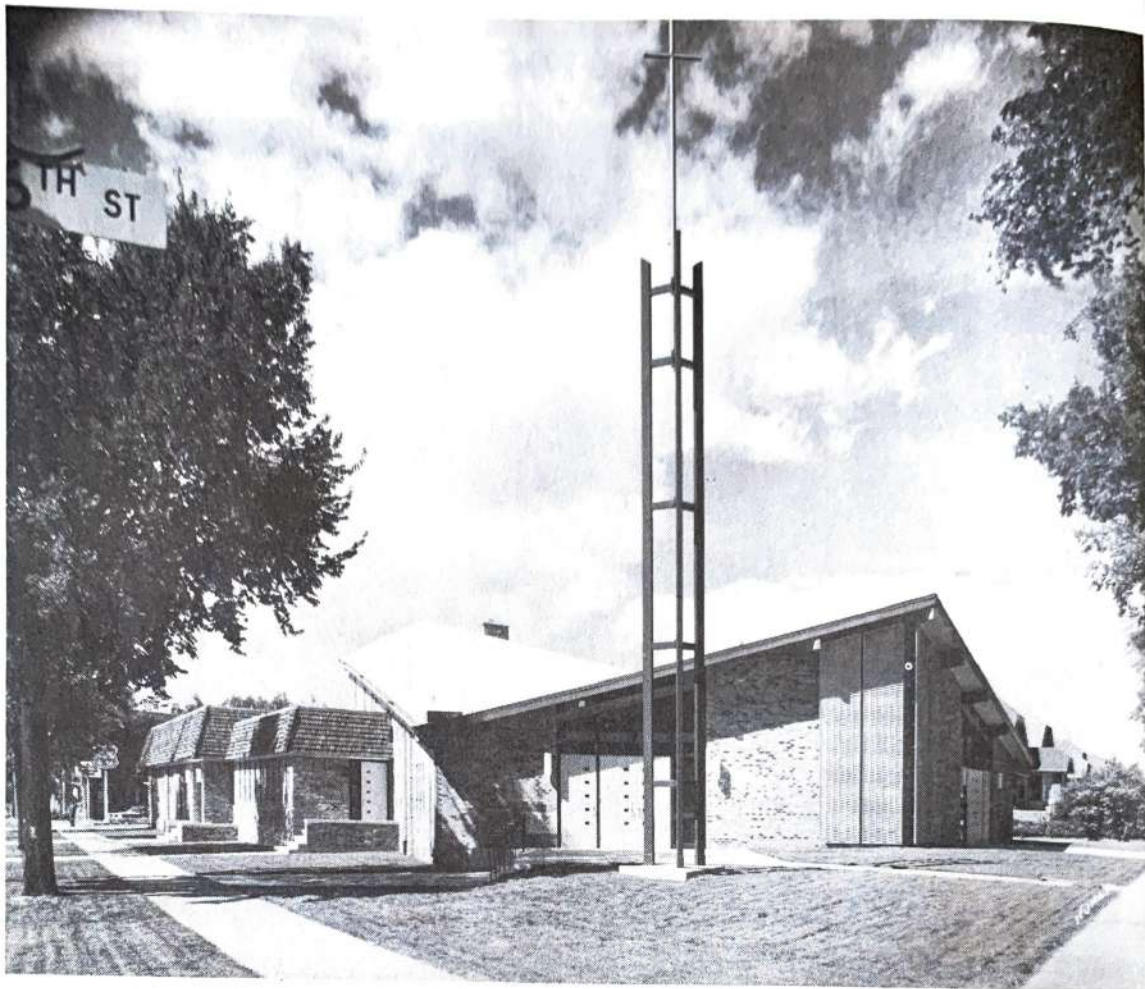
Rev. E. A. Hawkins
Pastor



St. Mark

A.M.E. Church—Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1869-1976



St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church was established April 5, 1869 with a membership of eight persons. This small band of Christians met in Enging House No. 5 on Second Street in the Fourth Ward of the City of Milwaukee. Today St. Mark's membership of 1,500 adults, plus 500 children and youth worship in a handsome modern \$100,000 edifice at 1616 W. Atkinson Avenue, Milwaukee. Our pastor is Dr. Lovell Johnson. Our presiding Elder is Rev. C. Wesley Ellison. St. Mark is a member of the St. Paul, Milwaukee District in the Chicago Conference.



Dr. Lovell Johnson
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Lockland, Ohio

1862-1976

On Sunday, July 5, 1862, eighteen people met in the warehouse of a paper factory and effected the organization of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Meetings were held in that warehouse for two years.

In 1865 the congregation was financially able to purchase a lot on Mulberry Street, which is the site of our present recreational facilities.

On June 7, 1867, the cornerstone of the church was laid under the leadership of Rev. Jesse Henderson. At this time the church was named Arnett Chapel for Bishop B. W. Arnett, who was also a member of the Ohio Legislature. The church was admitted to the Walnut Hills circuit of the A.M.E. Conference.

In 1878 the community had grown to the extent that a new building was necessary. Consequently a church was built on the corner of Mulberry and Locust Streets, which is the site of our present edifice. At this time the church was renamed "Bethel" (House of God) and so chartered in 1880, under the pastorate of Rev. W. T. Maxwell.



Rev. Wilton E. Blake, I
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Indianapolis, Indiana

1836-1976



MILESTONES

- 1836 – Establishment. Bethel was first organized in a log cabin on Georgia Street, between Capitol and Senate Avenues by Mr. Turner, an intelligent barber.
- 1837 – Bethel's First Preacher. Reverend William Paul Quinn (Circuit Rider) later became second Bishop to be elected to lead the denomination at its highest level.
- 1840 – Bethel's First Church Building was built. The edifice was constructed on Georgia Street west of Capitol; also, the A.M.E. Church was first organized with 28 churches to become known as the Indiana Annual Conference.
- 1848 – Bethel sends First Delegate to General Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 1854 – First Missionary Society organized by Blacks.
- 1857 – Bethel bought old Christ Church Cathedral.
- 1858 – Church was burned by revolutionaries in rebellion against abolition gospel preached by Rev. Revels, brother of the illustrious Black Georgia Senator.
- 1860 – Underground Railroad Station. Bethel served in this capacity in helping slaves escape.

- 1866 – Bethel sponsored the organization of Allen A.M.E. Church, 11th and Broadway Sts.
- 1867 – First Black school in Indianapolis. Bethel sponsored and initiated by Samuel A. Elbert who later became a medical doctor.



Dr. J. Solomon Benn, III
Pastor

- 1868 – Bethel Church building destroyed by fire.
- 1869 – New Church Building erected on Vermont.
- 1871 – First Black M.D. graduates from Indiana University. A member of Bethel, Dr. Samuel A. Townsend.
- 1885 – Bethel completes and dedicates new structure at 414 West Vermont Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 1888 – General Conference meets at Bethel. The first National black meeting to be held in Indiana.
- 1889 – U.S. President Benjamin Harrison selects Pastor of Bethel, Reverend John M. Townsend to become U.S. Recorder of Deeds.

Allen Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Terre Haute, Indiana



1837-1976

HISTORICAL FACTS

- * Allen Chapel—National Register of Historic Places (1975).
- * Allen Chapel restoration listed in official American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Publications.
- * Allen Chapel, oldest Black church in Western Indiana (1837).
- * Allen Chapel, organized by Rev. William Paul Quinn who became Bishop and held his first official meeting at Allen Chapel (1844).
- * Allen Chapel's pastor, Rev. Hiram Revels, organized and taught first Black school in Terre Haute in Allen Chapel.
- * Allen Chapel's former pastor, Rev. Hiram Revels, was first Black elected United States Senator (elected from Mississippi).
- * First Terre Haute Black public school teacher, Mr. Z. M. Anderson, was a member of Allen Chapel.
- * First Terre Haute Black high school graduate, Miss Charlotte Blake, was a member of Allen Chapel (1880).
- * First Black in the United States to enter the field of oceanography, Miss Rhea L. Graham, is a product of Allen Chapel (1974).
- * Allen Chapel was an early station on the Underground Railroad.
- * Allen Chapel housed and fed migrants during the Reconstruction.
- * Allen Chapel houses the Bell from the first Vigo County Court House (1819).



Rev. Jimmie Trammer
Pastor

Sponsored by Allen Chapel Restoration Committee (non-profit group)
Glenn Graham, President
James C. Rutledge, Treasurer
Leonard Handley, Secretary

Hill Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Marion, Indiana

1842-1976

Hill Chapel was organized in 1842. Bishop Paul Quinn was the Presiding Prelate.

Mr. John Stokes donated the land where the present church stands. The one-acre land is a part of The Masonic and Eastern Star Farm. Mr. Aaron Betts, from Ohio, helped the early Negroes to come to Grant County.

First pastor was Rev. Ben Hill and he came from Kentucky; the church was named honoring him. There were 12 families, namely the Jones, Guillifords, Pettiford, Peterson, Casey, White, Burden, Wallace, Beck, Ward, Evans, and Stewarts. We now have nine members with regular attendance of five.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Chicago, Illinois

1862-1976



BETHEL PASTORS — 1862-1976



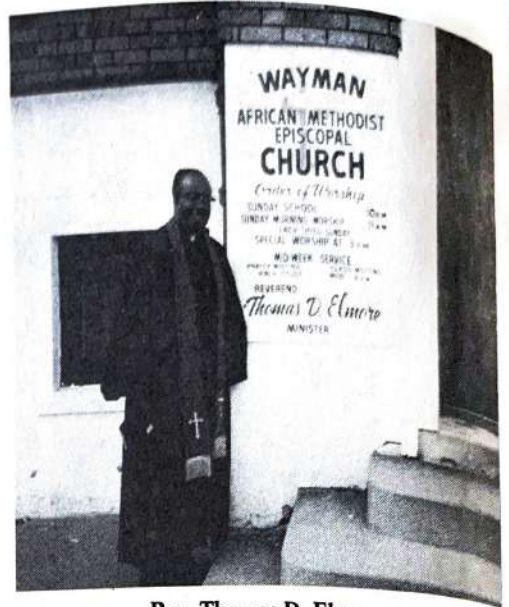
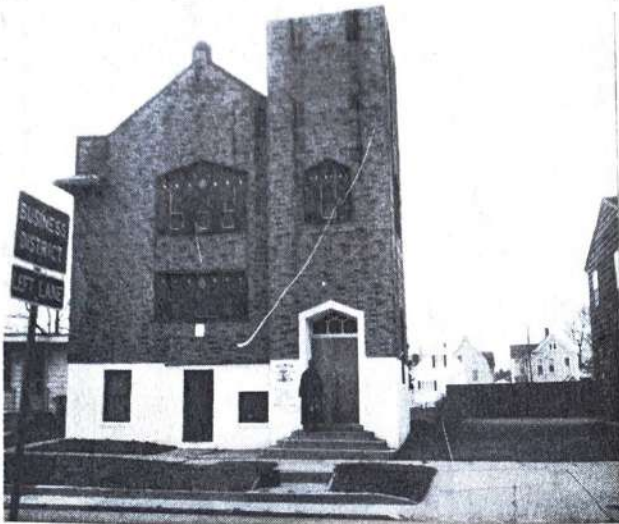
Rev. David C. Coleman, Jr.
Pastor

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1862—Rev. Eamos McIntosh | 1895—Rev. Reverdy C. Ransom |
| 1865—Rev. Frederick Myers | 1900—Rev. A. L. Murray |
| 1868—Rev. Johnson Mitchem | 1904—Rev. A. J. Carey |
| 1870—Rev. Henry Brown | 1909—Rev. D. P. Roberts |
| 1872—Rev. T. W. Roberts | 1913—Rev. Theophilus A. Smythe |
| 1973—Rev. John W. Malone | 1915—Rev. W. D. Cook |
| 1875—Rev. William J. Davis | 1920—Rev. S. L. Birt |
| 1876—Rev. J. W. Eads | 1922—Rev. Carl M. Tanner |
| 1877—Rev. J. H. W. Jackson | 1926—Rev. H. Y. Took |
| 1880—Rev. George H. Christburg | 1928—Rev. A. Wayman Ward |
| 1881—Rev. William J. Laws | 1949—Dr. C. Baker Pearle |
| 1887—Rev. Lewis H. Reynolds | 1952—Rev. John A. Alexander |
| 1889—Rev. George W. Gaines | 1958—Rev. J. Anthony Portlock |
| 1891—Rev. David A. Graham | 1962—Rev. Robert Thomas, Jr. |
| 1972—Rev. David C. Coleman, Jr. | |

Wayman

A.M.E. Church—Bloomington, Illinois

1843-1976



Rev. Thomas D. Elmore
Pastor

Wayman A.M.E. Church is the oldest church in this city that has remained in the same location during its entire existence. It was organized October 10, 1843, by the Rev. William Paul Quinn on his western tour. In 1844 Rev. Quinn was consecrated Bishop in our church. The church was named after A. W. Wayman who became one of the outstanding Bishops of the church.

The first church building cost \$300.00 with Rev. A. E. Hall serving as the first pastor. During its 132 years, several historical events happened here. Several of the early ministers who served as pastors became Bishops and Presiding Elders. Rev. Charles S. Smith became a Bishop in 1900 and served in that capacity until he died, twenty-two years later. Presiding Elders were Rev. G. A. Brown, the son of Bishop Brown, who served the Quincy District for 30 years, and Rev. C. W. Stratton.

During the early years the church was a stop on the underground railroad, and in the 1860's it was a school for Black people in this area. In 1872 the Illinois Conference of the Fourth Episcopal District was organized here by Bishop A. W. Wayman. At that time the district included Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana. One of Bishop Wayman's last conferences was held here September 5-10, 1895; he died three months later on December 5.

On August 11, 1882, Rev. C. S. Smith organized the A.M.E. Sunday School Union and a small printing press was installed in the church basement. There have been three buildings erected on these present premises. During the 1900's many ministers made contribution toward the progress of Wayman.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Quincy, Illinois

1859-1976



Rev. H. L. Wilson
Pastor

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized in 1858 jointly by Methodist and Baptist worshippers, under the name of Zion Methodist Church. Baptist members later organized their own church. A lot, with a carpenter's shop on it was secured by the Methodist near Ninth and Oak, where services were held with Brother William Carr as prayer meeting leader, William Foot, Rev. Newman, and Brothers Berryman and Dickerson as officers. Rev. H. H. Wilson, a local preacher, acted as pastor for some time, with the assistance of Rev. J. W. Dawson, a local preacher from Chicago.

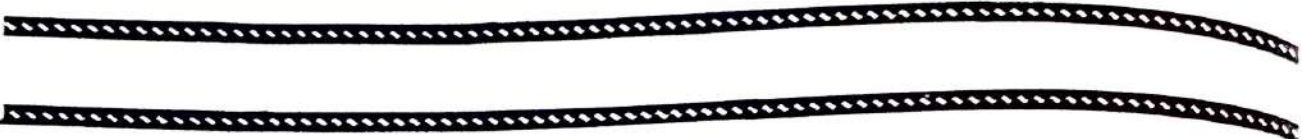
In 1863, Rev. Newsome acted as pastor until August when he took the church into the Indiana Conference. In 1871, the frame building burned and the present brick building was built and dedicated in 1875 by Bishop Paul Quinn. The church was remodeled in 1893 and again in 1958. Forty-five men have served as pastors of Bethel A.M.E. from 1863 to the present, 1976. Rev. H. L. Wilson is now pastor.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Crawfordville, Indiana

1847-1976

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Crawfordville, Indiana, was established August 20, 1847 in a very small structure. The number of members at the time is unknown. Our church remains small today with 14 members on record, of which number six to eight members are in regular attendance. The present church structure is located at 213 W. North Street, Crawfordville, Indiana, under the ministerial guidance of Rev. Mrs. Inez E. Tanner. The Presiding Elder is Rev. Henderson Davis, Mrs. Edith E. Reed is the Official Representative of the church.



Greater St. Luke

A.M.E. Church—East St. Louis, Illinois

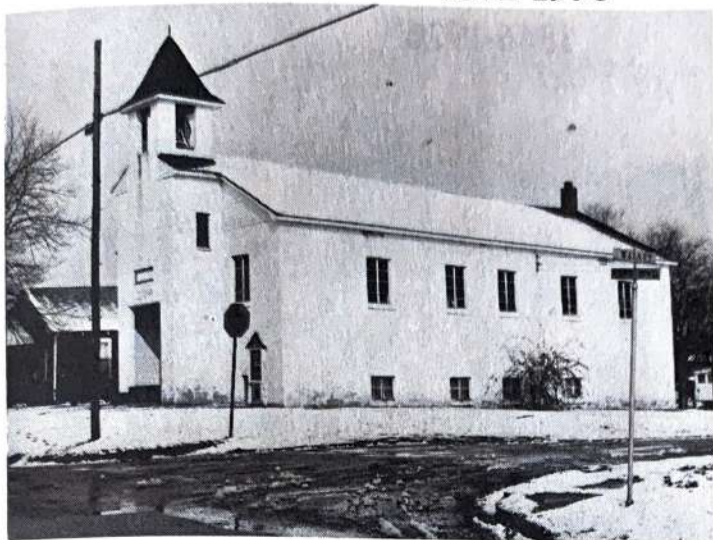
1876-1976

Greater St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1876 in a house in the stockyard area of East St. Louis, Illinois. The membership, unknown at the time, stands now at 401 members. The church edifice is located at 414 N. 14th Street, East St. Louis, Illinois. Rev. William Raymond Stewart is the pastor. Rev. Max Traylor is the Presiding Elder in the Cairo, East St. Louis District of the Illinois Conference.

Baber Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Harrisburg, Illinois

1872-1976

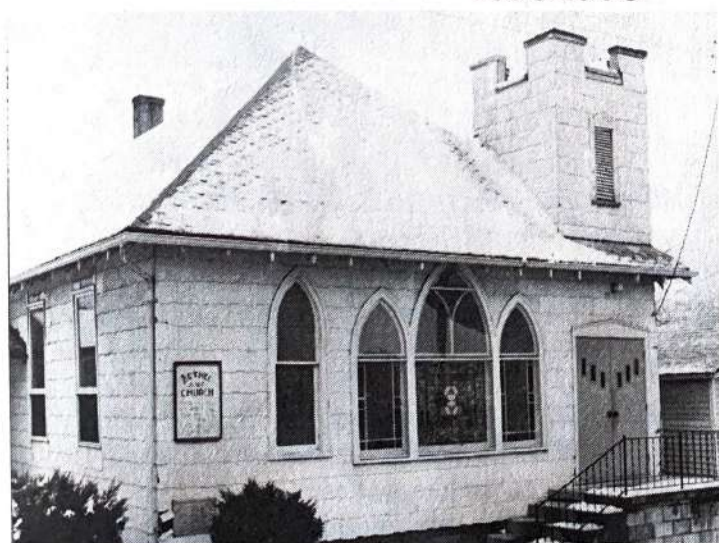


Baber Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1872 in Carrier Mills, Illinois on the Harrisburg Circuit. The number of members at that time is unknown. The present membership is 35. The church is located on East End Avenue. Rev. Myrtle Mae Miller is the pastor.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Harrisburg, Illinois

1873-1976



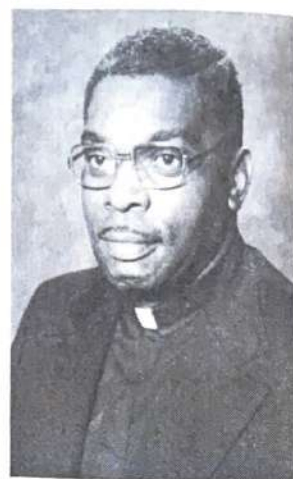
Rev. Myrtle M. Miller
Pastor

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1873 in the home of Mrs. Edna Williams in Harrisburg, Illinois. The number of the first membership is unknown, but the present membership is 45. The present pastor is Rev. Myrtle Mae Miller. The Presiding Elder is Rev. E. P. Williams. The church address is 73 Haskins Street. (Note: The Rev. Miller also pastors Mitchell Chapel, Carmi, Illinois, organized in 1871-72; organizers unknown.

Ward Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Peoria, Illinois

1846-1976



Rev. H. H. Walker
Pastor

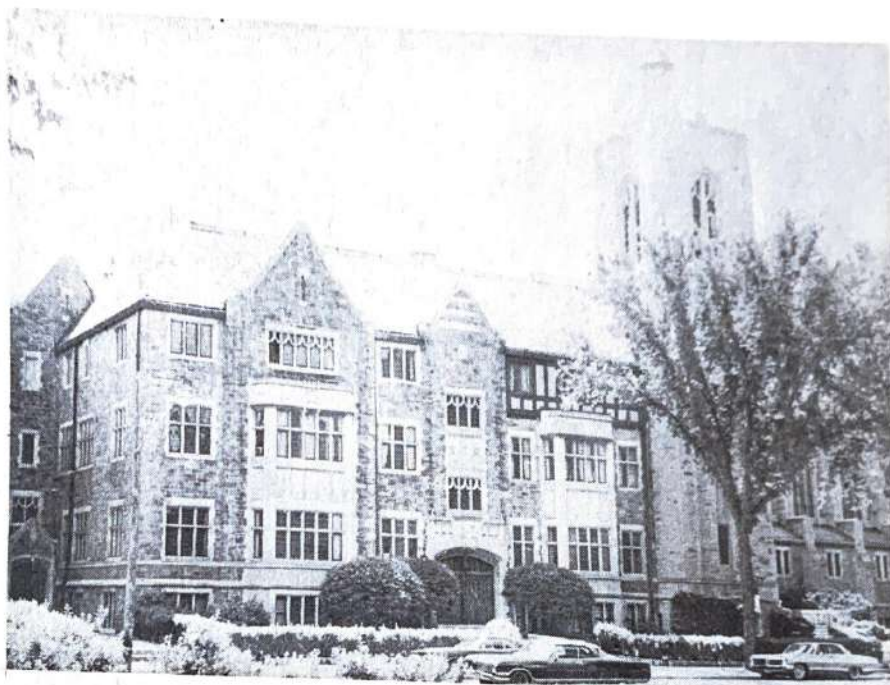
Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church was organized in May, 1846 by the Rev. Phillip Ward of Bloomington, Illinois, with nine members and Rev. William Gray, a local preacher who was the first class leader and steward. At first the congregation met in various homes. As the congregation increased it became necessary to have a larger meeting place, and a school was subsequently rented where they worshipped until a church of their own was built in 1853, under the leadership of Rev. William J. Davis.

When this building became too small they purchased the old German Methodist Church on the corner of 5th and Monson streets. After some twenty years this building became too small and was torn down and a new, larger structure was erected under the leadership of Rev. T. A. Clark—where the congregation grew and worshipped until they moved into the present structure in 1956. This building was started by the late Dr. B. N. Moore and completed by the Dr. J. S. Benn III. During these 129 years forty-three pastors have served Ward Chapel and each one has made a contribution to it's growth and it's service for God to mankind. Our present Pastor, Dr. H. H. Walker, has moved Ward Chapel forward in many ways. The membership has increased tremendously. Ward is the oldest Black congregation and the fourth oldest congregation of any kind in Peoria County.

Ebenezer

A.M.E. Church—Detroit, Michigan

1871-1976



Ebenezer A.M.E. Church was established November 2, 1871 in Detroit, Michigan. The first place of worship was Cook's Hall at the corner of Prospect and Watson Streets. Our first membership of 13 has grown to the present 2,762 members, serving not only our local church, but the North District of the Michigan Conference. The membership serves under the pastorate of Dr. Robert Thomas, Jr. The Presiding Elder is Rev. Martin Luther Simmons. Ebenezer is located at 5151 West Chicago, Blvd.



Dr. Robert Thomas, Jr.
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Detroit, Michigan

1841-1976



Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1841 at Detroit Military Hall (City Council Chambers). The beginning membership was 50 persons. This has grown to 3,000 members whose church is one of Detroit's most outstanding edifices, located at 5000 St. Antoine Street at East Warren Avenue. Dr. Maurice J. Higginbothan is our pastor. Dr. J. Allen Parker is the Presiding Elder and the Rt. Rev. Howard Thomas Primm is the Presiding Bishop over our South District and the Michigan Conference.

Rev. Maurice J. Higginbothan
Pastor



Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Battle Creek, Michigan

1850-1976

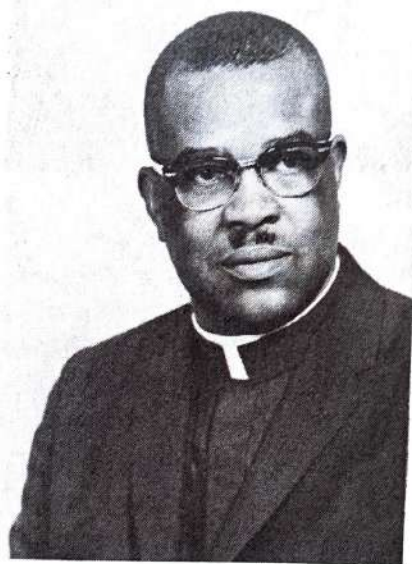
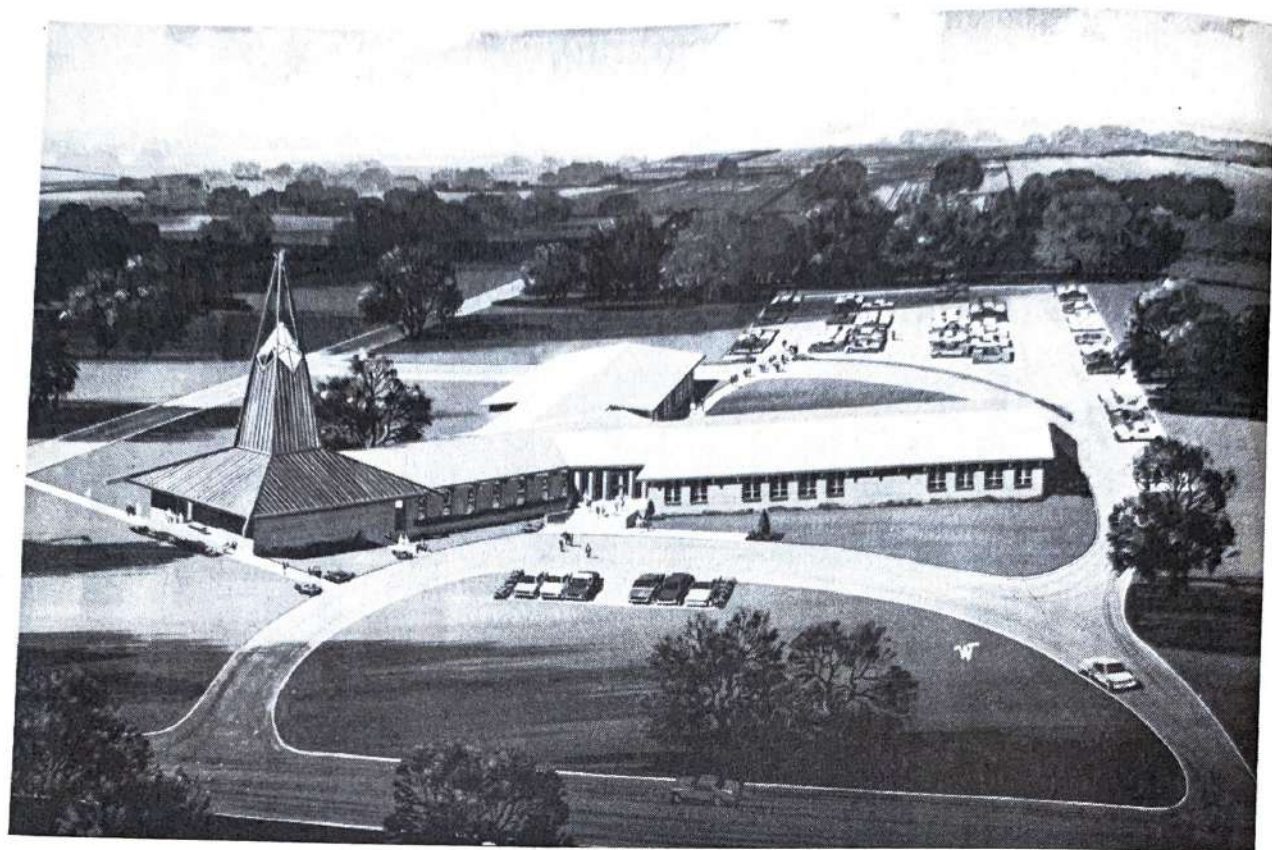


Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1850 at Battle Creek, Michigan, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nathal Vestal. The membership was 45 at the time of establishment. Today 237 members worship in an edifice located at 370 West Van Buren Street, Battle Creek, Michigan. Our pastor is Rev. William Mordeau Williams. Rev. Joseph Allen Parker serves as Presiding Elder in the South Detroit District of the Michigan Conference.

Union Memorial

A.M.E. Church—Benton Harbor, Michigan

1868-1976



Dr. Arthur L. Jelks, Sr.
Pastor

Union Memorial A.M.E. Church was established in 1868 at Benton Harbor, Michigan. The membership of 14 adults, 19 youths and infants met in the home of Mr. Steven Busby.

The present membership of 509 worships in an imposing modern edifice at 911 South Crystal Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan. The pastor is Dr. Arthur L. Jelks, Sr. Dr. J. Allen Parker is the Presiding Elder.

Quinn Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Flint, Michigan

1875-1976

We look forward with pride on the years Quinn Chapel has been a moving force in the community. From the year 1875 in a home on Mill Street to 1969 in our present home on Lippincott and McPhail, the church has been fraught with rich history. We have been blessed with our high moments and successes and we have had our heartaches, struggles, and have gone through the valley of disappointments.

From its earliest beginning, Quinn Chapel has been a proud people—not puffed up—but proud in the fact that they were the first Negro Church in Flint; and God saw fit to establish the church in a community where it could be of service to God and mankind in general.

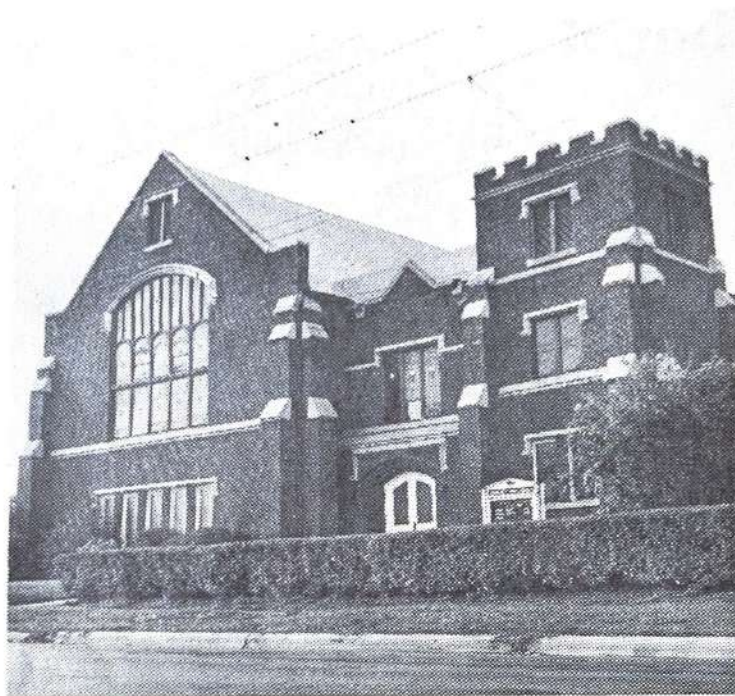
In October, 1955, the Rev. James S. A. Mitcham, a man of vision and a great builder, was sent to Flint and brought the church to where it is today. Under his leadership they moved steadily toward a new church home after worshiping in the old Mt. Olive Church. Again God showed his grace and love to Quinn Chapel by providing a person who made it possible for them to purchase more land than they ever could afford at the unheard of price of \$7,500.00. The work began, and on March 2, 1957, the congregation marched into their first unit.

But they didn't stop there, for you see the people still had a mind to work; so they kept on pressing on and on December 25, 1960, Christmas Day, they moved into their upper structure. This was a day of rejoicing and praising for getting the victory. On May 21, 1961, the church was dedicated to God and it started its task of being a moving force in the new community that surrounds the church.

Community

A.M.E. Church—Jackson, Michigan

1865-1976



Community A.M.E. Church was established in Jackson, Michigan in 1865. The original membership, numbering 24 devoted Christians, convened in a blacksmith shop on Courtland Street as their first house of worship. The present membership, under the guidance of Rev. E. L. Chastine, stands at 155 workers in the vineyard. The Community A.M.E. Church's stately edifice of worship is located at 218 E. Franklin Street, Jackson, Michigan. We are members of Michigan Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Church.



Rev. Eli Chastine
Pastor

St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—St. Louis, Missouri

1841-1976

St. Paul was officially organized in 1841 by Dr. William Paul Quinn, who was later to become a Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. John Winston Early was the first pastor. The church was organized in the home of Sister Priscilla Baltimore and the first building was erected in 1841 at 11th and Green Streets (Green is now Lucas Ave.). Here the congregation remained until 1890 when it moved to Leffing-



well and West Chestnut (now Lawton) during the ministry of Rev. E. T. Cottman. The Church remained here for 70 years; but because of the shift in population in the city, the congregation held its final service at this site Sunday, October 29, 1961 and occupied temporary quarters in the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church, at Union and Maple Avenues, Elder D. B. Reid, pastor, until Sunday, April 29, 1962 when the congregation moved to its present home at Hamilton and Julian Avenues. This is by far the most edifice the church has ever owned. The properties consist of church and educational building, a brick community center and a stone parsonage. This transaction was completed during the ministry of Dr. G. Wayman Blakely, who was elected Bishop in 1964.

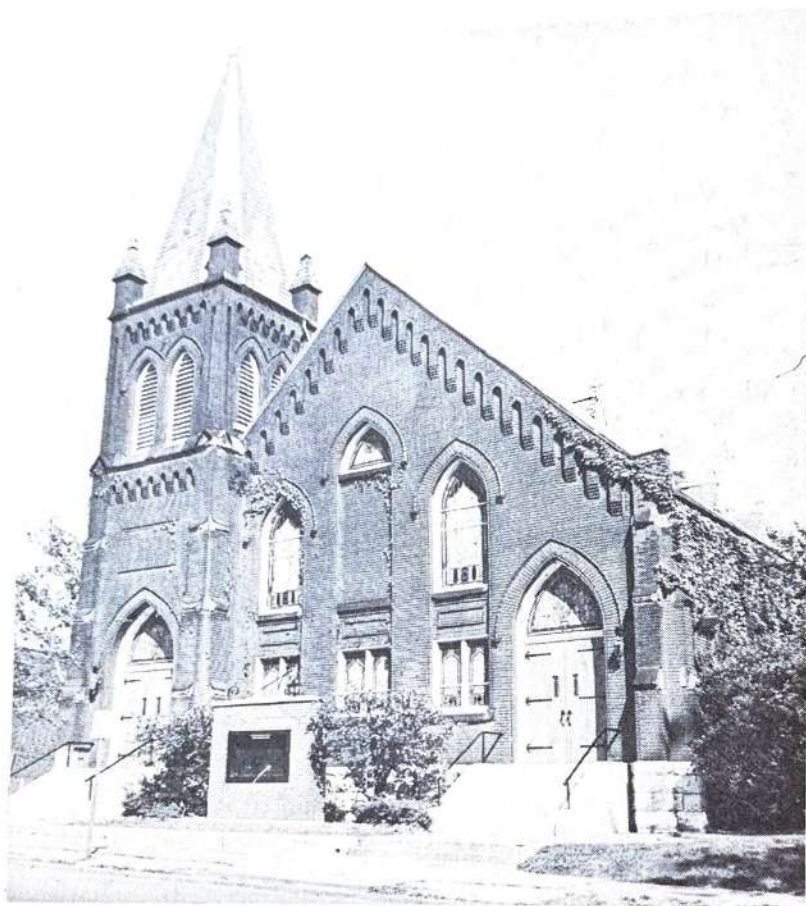
The first Quadrennial Convention of the Womens Missionary Society to be held west of the Mississippi River was hosted by this church, July 15, 1963. In 1964 the Rev. Vinton R. Anderson came to St. Paul and under his administration the sanctuary was refurbished to its present beauty.

In July, 1972, the present pastor, Rev. James H. Oxley, came to St. Paul. Under his dynamic leadership the congregation has raised \$30,000 to liquidate the mortgage on the church while keeping up current obligations to local and general church, as well as civic and community responsibilities. St. Paul now operates a Day Care Center at the church.

St. Peters

A.M.E. Church—St. Louis, Missouri

1847-1976



St. Peters African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1847 and relocated at the present location in 1962, by Rev. James H. Oxley. Many strong pastors have shepherded this great congregation. The Mortgage was liquidated under the present pastor, Rev. Harry M. Davis.



Rev. Harry M. Davis
Pastor



Mrs. Ann P. Davis

Perry Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Charleston, Missouri

1816-1976



Perry Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized by Rev. Robert Black, born a slave in the State of Tennessee, son of a half Indian. When a boy, he ran away to the Indians and when the Indians were moved to Florida, he ran away to Indiana. He served in the Civil War and after the war moved to Columbus, Ky.

Rev. Black organized A.M.E. Churches in Indianapolis, Ind.; Louisville, Ky.; Wolf Island, Mo.; Birds Mill, Mo.; Big Lake, Columbus, Ky.; Charleston, Mo.; Thomas Bend, Mo., where he lived and farmed until death; and Commerce, Mo. All the Missouri churches were in Mississippi County, except for Commerce, which is in Scott County. And all of the churches had church buildings, except for Big

Lake; however, except for our church in Charleston, none of the others are in existence or operation. Charleston's first building was a log cabin. The next two were family dwellings. The records show that the name Perry Chapel was used in the deeds of the fourth building, erected in 1904, named after the pastor at that time, Rev. Perry Thurman. The present pastor is Rev. James Webb, II.



Dedication of Perry Chapel—1972

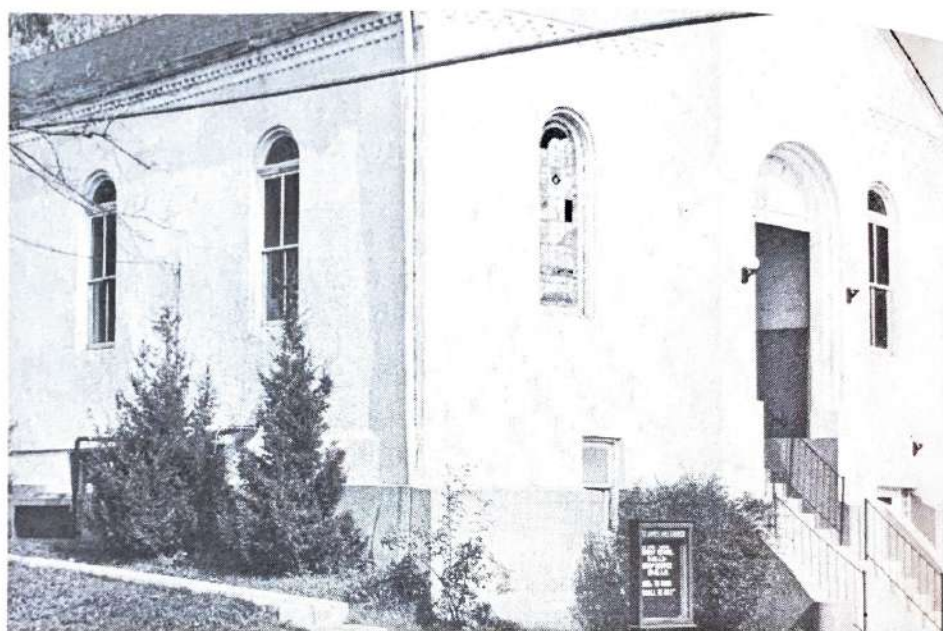
St. James

A.M.E. Church—Cape Girardeau, Missouri

1863-1976



Rev. & Mrs. J. C. Nixon



St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, with a history of more than a century, dates back as one of the oldest A.M.E. churches in the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The church has a history dating back to 1863. An original deed to the church property dated in 1868 is housed in a building which was constructed in 1875. The St. James Society, or Station, was organized in 1863 by a group of four men after they had attended services in an old Baptist church. The first ministers of the church were circuit riders who travelled from station to station, periodically visiting the station here and bringing their messages.

It wasn't until 1875 that the congregation constructed its present house of worship, a brick structure at 516 North Street. The church still holds its original deed to the property dated July 9, 1868. The old church was remodeled in 1926 and in the process, the cornerstone was removed, not to be replaced for 36 years. The Church has continued to grow throughout the years and under its present pastor, the Rev. Joseph C. Nixon Jr., and presiding elder, Dr. Samuel M. Pointer of the St. Louis-Cape Girardeau District.

Allen Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Kansas City, Missouri

1863-1976



Rev. P. A. Williams, Sr.
Pastor

In October, 1863, the Rev. Clark Moore came to Kansas City, Missouri and started a Mission between Fourth and Delaware and Sixth Streets. This was known to the old timers as "Stragglers Camp." Thus, Allen Chapel had its beginning.

Following Rev. Moore, the Rev. John Loving moved the church to its second location a frame building at Tenth and Charlotte in 1866. In 1896 a new church was built by the Rev. Jesse Peck and later improved by his brother, the Rev. William Peck at this same location.

From 1912 to the present, the pastors have been: H. B. Parks (elected Bishop); W. H. Thomas; J. B. Isaacs; C. S. Williams; Joseph Gomez (retired Bishop); C. A. Williams (native son); A. A. Fox; T. J. Burwell; M. H. Vanhooose; Edward S. Foust; Jesse L. Boyd; Cecil W. Howard—during his pastorship a shift in population and urban renewal made it necessary to move Allen Chapel to its present location at 4125 Benton Blvd., its third location, and a parsonage was purchased; H. Calvin McMillan; Robert L. Phillips; and the present pastor since 1972, P. Albert Williams, Sr., who purchased the third parsonage of this congregation and hopes to be elected as the first pastor from the pulpit of Allen Chapel to the second highest office in the church, that of a General Officer in 1976.

Quinn Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Carondolet, Missouri

1845-1976



In 1845 Rev. Jonathan Winston Early founded Quinn Chapel in Carondolet, Missouri, as a class in a log cabin on a farm. In 1869 a piece of ground was donated to the group by Hon. Henry T. Blow, and a new church was built and completed in September of 1869, and then destroyed by fire about one month later. The congregation met from place to place until 1880. Led by Steward Chairman, Edwin F. Brown, the members bought an old market place built by the city of Carondolet, but never used. The church was named Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church after the late Bishop Paul Quinn, fourth Bishop of the A.M.E. Church.

In 1889 a new front was added to the church, and a bell was purchased and placed in the belfry. It still rings to this date. In 1907 a new brick parsonage was built by Rev. L. R. Duke. Because of its cultural and historic importance, Quinn Chapel was placed in the National Register of Historic Sites.

Some names of pastors having served this church are; Reverends Moses Dickson, Burl Mitchell, Henderson (bought church), B. F. Steward, E. R. Vaughn, T. R. Deimer, C. A. Williams, L. R. Duke, Tony Perry, J. C. Hicks, R. A. Phillipps, William Lacey, E. C. W. Cox, O. H. Brown, Charles Jacobs, Cozart Harris, H. Maberry, and presently George Hedgeman, a student minister of Wilberforce University (owned and operated by A.M.E.'s), serves this historic congregation.

Grant Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Moberly, Missouri

1870-1976



Grant Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1870 in the home of Mrs. Lucile Thomas, the mother of Mrs. Rosa Washington. The home was located at 215 South Clark St. and the church was organized by the Reverend Madison Corbine, who came to Moberly from Macon, Missouri. At its inception, he found only two devout Methodists among the black people. Beginning with these two forerunners, the church continued to grow until her membership today totals 175.

From 1870 to 1975, the church has had four locations; from Mrs. Thomas' home on Clark St., it moved to Fourth St., from there to Fifth and Coates St., and in 1913 to its present site at Fifth and Winchester. At that time the Reverend F. D. Welk was pastor. Forty ministers have served this church in its 105 years of existence. The present pastor is the Dr. Granville Hayes. In the four years pastor Hayes has done extensive remodeling to the inside of the church and the outside of the church and parsonage raising over \$150,000 in the past four years he has been the pastor.

Olive Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Kirkwood, Missouri

1847-1976



Rev. O. R. Booker
Pastor

Olive Chapel was founded in the home of a lady known as Grandma Emery and was first located in the 300 block of Washington Avenue, Kirkwood, Missouri in 1847. Not much is known about the church until 1915, except names of the ministers, who were: Reverends Cheatham, Watson, Burnett, Spurlock, Phillips and Smith.

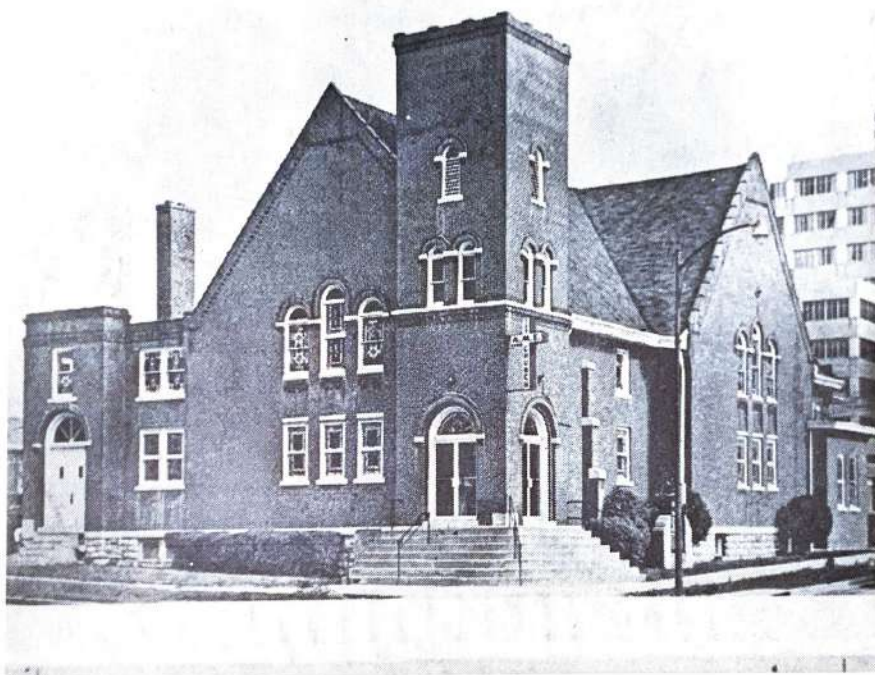
The church moved to its present location in April, 1923, at a cost of \$20,000. The mortgage was paid off in 1947, under the pastorage of Rev. H. Matlock. The present parsonage was purchased in 1967 while Rev. E. L. Strickland pastored. Olive Chapel likes to be known as "The Friendly Church on the Corner."

From 1915 to the present time, the following ministers have served Olive Chapel: Reverends T. J. Townsend, Stevenson, R. L. Phillips, E. E. Treadwell, G. E. Horsey, B. Herron, W. H. Lacey, J. H. Matlock, E. Woody Hall, L. S. Goolsby, Emory G. Davis, R. L. Blackman, J. Silas Daniels, L. P. Parker, E. Luis Strickland, E. Wesley Beavers, W. W. Ward, and the present minister O. R. Booker.

First

A.M.E. Church—Kansas City, Kansas

1859-1976



The movement which took place in Kansas City, Kansas which later was given the name of First African Methodist Episcopal Church was begun in 1859 when there were only 627 Blacks in the entire state of Kansas.

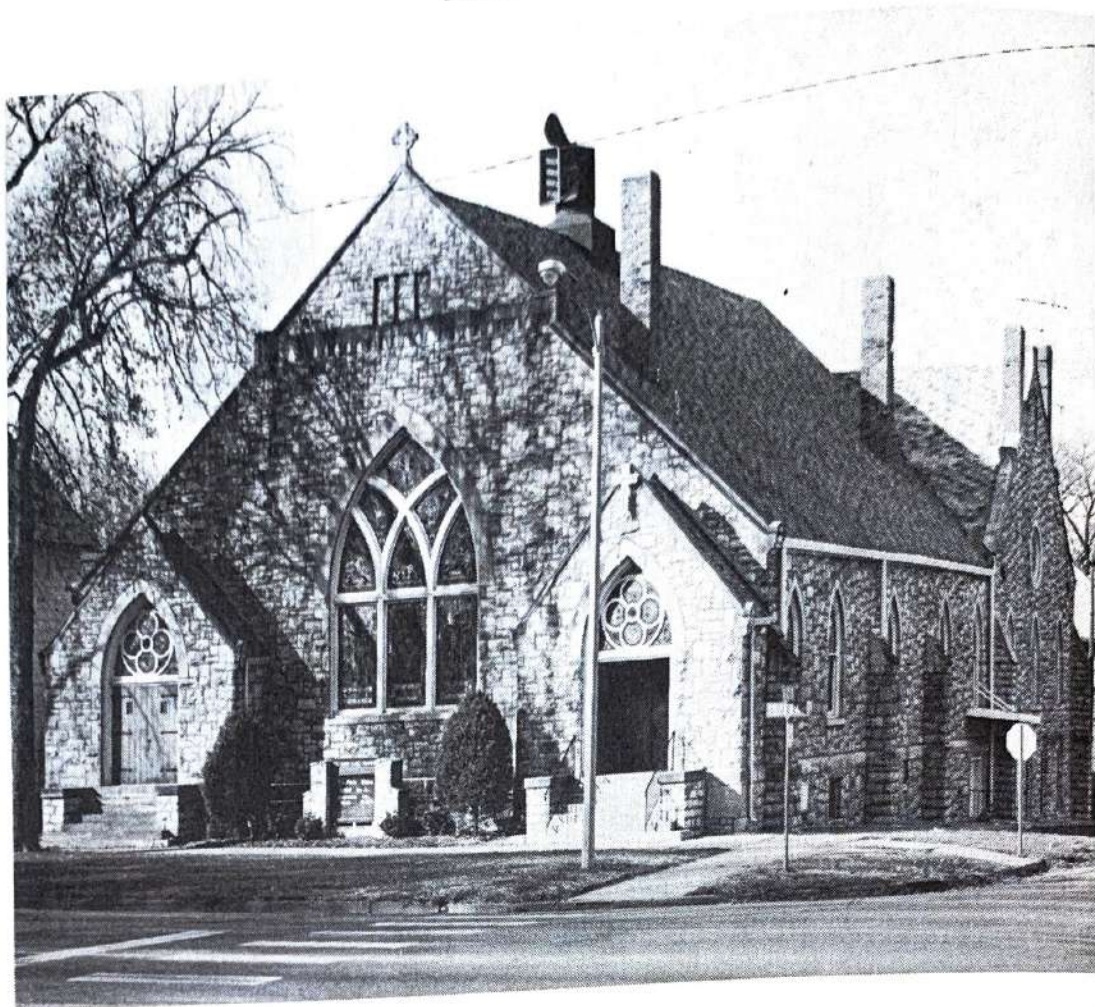
Three families had begun having worship services together. Among these were both Baptists and Methodists. A Baptist and a Methodist local preacher were among them. For several years they worshiped together with the preachers serving on alternate Sundays.

When the local population began expanding rapidly a Methodist and a Baptist Church were established. The Baptist group became First Baptist Church, which is now at 5th & Nebraska Avenue, and the Methodist Church became First African Methodist Episcopal Church which is now at 8th & Nebraska Avenue. A succession of capable Ministers have been at the helm of this institution. At present, Dr. H. Solomon Hill is the Pastor.

St. John

A.M.E. Church—Topeka, Kansas

1868-1976



St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church had its origins in 1868 in a rented barn located in an alley between Harrison and Van Buren Streets, bounded on the north by Second Street and on the south by Third Street. At that time all of First Street from Sante Fe Shops on the east to what is now the Rock Island Bridge on the west, were the homes of a few freed men and many ex-slaves who had come to Kansas filled with bright promises of the future. From this location, men and women formed a prayer circle which developed into a Methodist Church Mission. From 1868 to 1878 they grew little by little and continued to worship in the small building. In 1878, Rev. John M. Wilkerson, a presiding elder of the Missouri A.M.E. Conference, organized this Mission into the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and it was chartered under the laws of the State of Kansas as the first A.M.E. church.

In 1879 lots were bought on Second and Madison and a building was erected. In that building they had their first regular appointed pastor, the Rev. Schuyler Washington. In 1881 lots were bought on the corner of Seventh and Topeka Avenue, and the cornerstone of the new St. John was laid in 1886. In 1908 the church was torn down to build a new and more modern building.

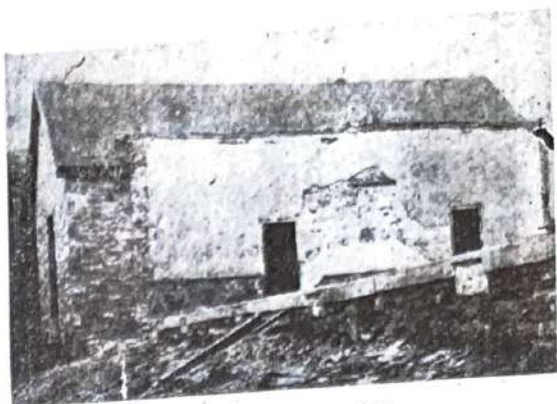
Under the pastorate of Rev. E. Woody Hall, who served St. John six years, a tithing program was initiated and construction of the new parsonage was begun and almost completed when he was assigned to serve Ebenezer in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon the assignment of our present pastor, Rev. William A. Fowler, in November, 1959, attention was concentrated upon paying off the parsonage and other indebtedness connected therewith, which was successfully accomplished during his first year.

St. Luke

A.M.E. Church—Lawrence, Kansas



1862-1976



The first church building.



St. Luke today.

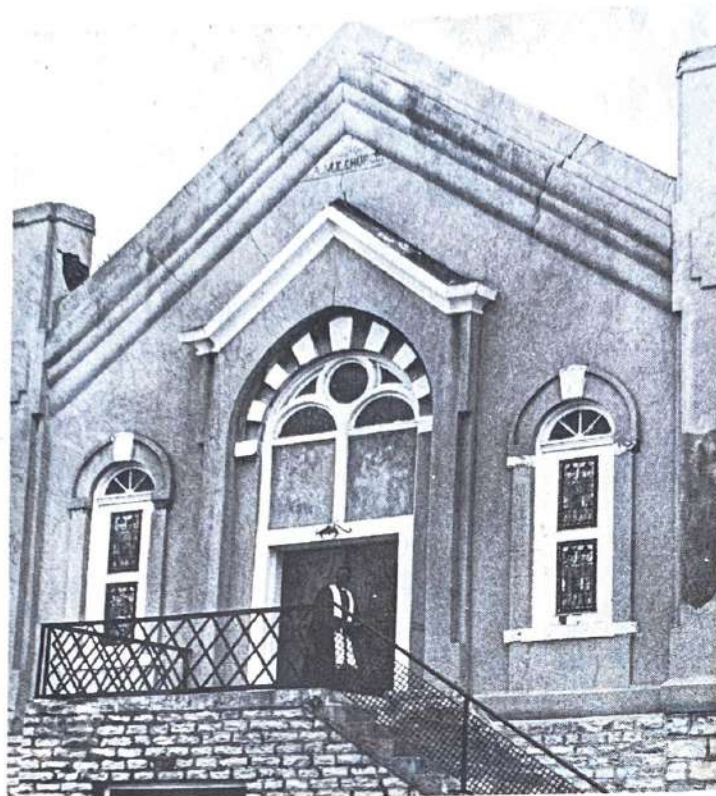
St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and dedicated for holy worship in 1862, not quite eight years after the streets of Lawrence were surveyed for the permanent foundation of the city. The late Rev. J. M. Wilkerson was the first pastor of St. Luke, and the late Bishop Thomas M. Ward was the presiding prelate of the District. The first structure was made of stone and was erected on the back of the present lot, bordering on what is now the alley. Later it was remodeled into a spacious frame building under the pastorate of the late Rev. Richard Ricketts. The present brick edifice was built.

It is said the old stone church was a secure hiding place for many citizens, both black and white during Quantrill's raid. Escaped slaves, ex-slaves and their children constituted the membership of the early church. Many came here through the underground railroad system. Rev. H. H. Brookins, now Bishop Brookins was a pastor, and he had the pulpit moved from South to East, remodeled the office, choir room and Stewardess room, and added a Hammond organ and some carpeting. During the time when this work was in progress, morning worship service was held in the First Unit very comfortably. In order to finance these changes, the church was mortgaged. This debt was paid off under the pastorate of the next minister who happened to be Rev. Vinton R. Anderson.

In 1971, Rev. W. Lamar Brown was assigned to St. Luke. This was to be his first and only charge, and he gave his all for it. He was man of many talents, equally at home in the pulpit, at the organ, at his architect's desk and actually building. He inspired the members to again step out and renovate the church, and the results are still a source of amazement to all who saw it before and after. In December 1973, Rev. Brown took bronchial pneumonia, and from then on was in a losing battle with illness. He was reassigned to St. Luke at annual conference, but had to enter the hospital on his return, and succumbed October 9. At the First Quarterly Conference, 1974, Presiding Elder Stephenson brought Rev. W. M. Elliott Jr., who had been assigned to St. Luke. At the Third Quarterly Conference, Rev. Elliott presented Leonard Thomas, who had joined St. Luke as a student at K. U. and had felt a call to preach. After much counselling, pastor Elliott felt he was worthy of consideration, and the Presiding Elder and members of Annual Conference were glad to encourage him to go on with the good work. The present pastor is Rev. L. W. Goolsby.

Campbell

A.M.E. Church—Atchison, Kansas



1865-1976



Rev. Lorenzo R. Finnell
Pastor

Campbell Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, of 715 Atchison Street, Atchison, Kansas was organized by Rev. John Metherson, assisted by Mr. J. H. Fisher, in the year 1865. The original membership selected the name Campbell Chapel in honor of the presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. J. P. Campbell.

The organization of the church took place in a room above the Lane Livery Stables located on Commercial Street. The lot on which the church now stands was purchased on April 10, 1866. A frame building was erected. The congregation worshipped here for twelve years. The building burned, and the present structure was erected in 1878 with a seating capacity of about two hundred. The church was stuccoed in 1919. A new parsonage was erected during the pastorate of Rev. S. M. Pointer, and located on the east side of the church. Several years later the remodeling and redecorating of the church, beginning with the basement, was started in the summer of 1951. Work was done on a pay-as-you-go basis. The new entrance to the church was completed in 1965. The general chairman of the building fund committee was Mr. Lloyd Kerford, secretary and treasurer was Mrs. Ada Smith.

Campbell Chapel observed its Centennial in 1973, Rev. Samuel W. Blanks, pastor. In June, 1975, during the pastorate of Rev. Lorenzo R. Finnell, a new central air conditioning system was given to the church by Mrs. Ruth Henderson, a trustee, in memory of her late husband, Mr. Leon Henderson. The church and parsonage exteriors have been redecorated.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Leavenworth, Kansas

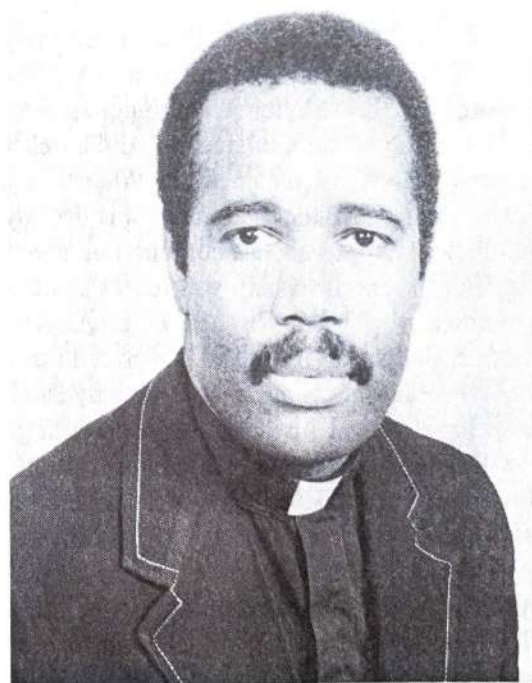
1861-1976

On March 8, 1861, Henry and Isabell Foote deeded to the trustees of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church lots in the original plat of Leavenworth. Previous to that date Bethel church members worshipped in a small frame building that stood where the church parsonage now stands. Beginning with a small membership, Bethel church grew and prospered until its congregation overflowed the seating capacity.

For some time before 1861 until the close of the Civil War in 1865 Bethel church served as a vital link in the famous Underground Railroad. Bethel was one of the first stops for escaping slaves from Missouri going West.

In 1865 Rev. Henry McNeil Turner, pastor of Bethel and one who would later become a Bishop in the A.M.E. Church, realized a need for a new place where the newly freed slaves could find spiritual food and freedom of worship as well as a real place of refuge, built the present Bethel church structure in Leavenworth, Kansas. The ground deeded by the Footes was accordingly selected as the site for the new building which was to be built of brick and, as tradition has it, was to tower high enough for its top to be seen from the eastern banks of the Missouri River. Bethel was to stand tall so that Blacks in Missouri might observe this monument to the freedom of man and the power and justice of God.

For 110 years now she has stood proud. Many ministers have pastored this historic church and have gained positions of prominence both in religious and political fields. Among these were Hiram Rebels who later became the first black Senator from Mississippi. Reverends, J. C. Emory, John A. Gregg, Frederick D. Jordan, G. Wayman Blakley, and of course the builder Henry McNeil Turner have all been elected to the office of Bishop of the church. The present pastor is Rev. Earl G. Harris. The Reverend William F. Dancy, a former pastor of Bethel is the Presiding Elder.



Rev. Earl G. Harris
Pastor

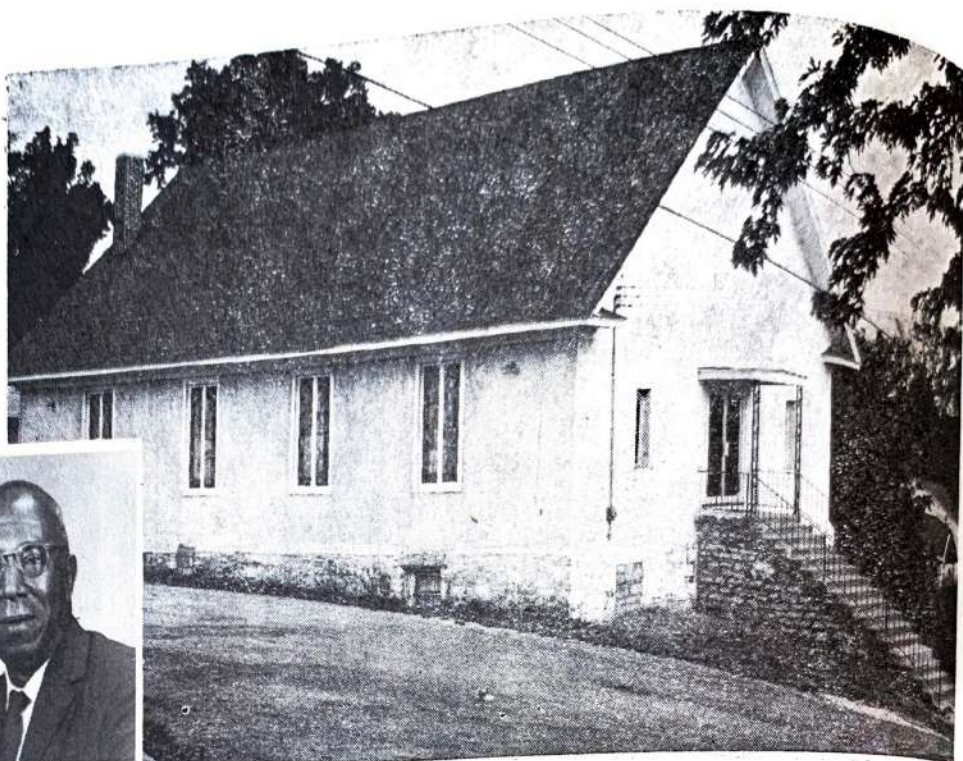
Allen Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Quindare, Kansas

1869-1976



Rev. G. H. Warren
Pastor



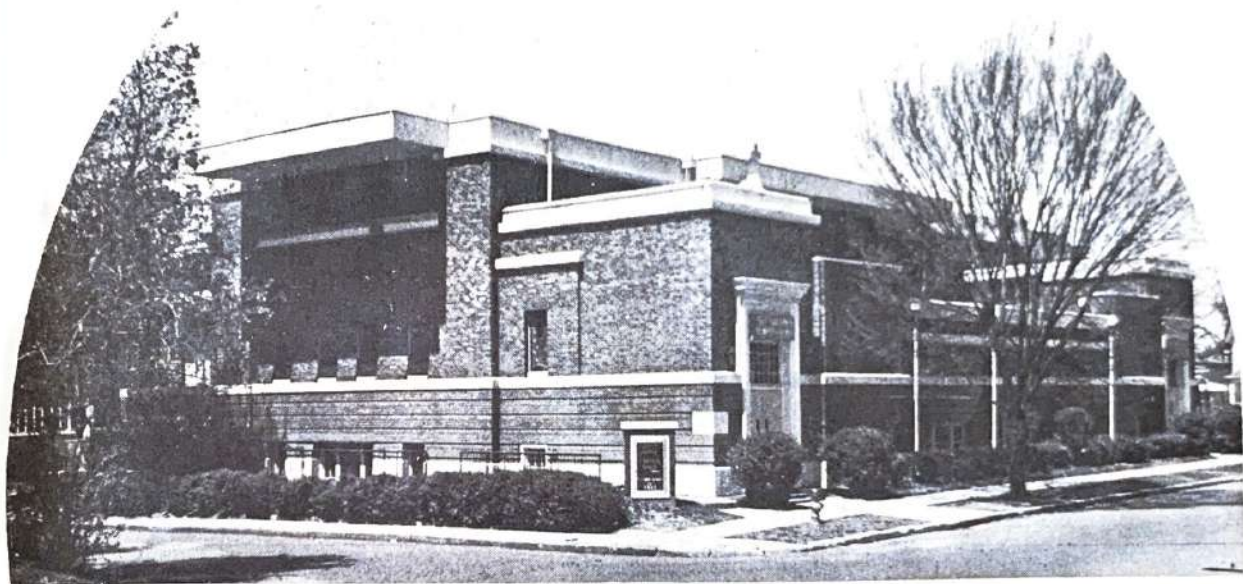
Allen Chapel built her first church in 1869 of logs that were secured from the surrounding territory. It was located on what is now the northeast corner of 33rd and Sewell. Our first church was pastored by Rev. Skyler A. Washington. A short time later the congregation purchased a brick building from the white Congregational Church which was located on the site of our present church's parsonage and was renamed the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church. This new church was pastored by a Rev. Chriatian. After the church was destroyed by fire, they then worshipped in an old white stone building which served as a combination church and district No. 17. As the church struggled to re-establish itself a revival to help was led by Brother R. T. Conner. A church was then built on the property we now own. When Rev. H. H. McAllister was appointed pastor they sold this site to St. James Masonic Lodge and moved to the present location of the church.

The church was again destroyed by fire in 1913. The present church building was started in 1914. Rev. Jones closed his administration with great success after having pastored five years. The church was incorporated during the administration of Rev. M. C. Knight in 1919. During the pastorate of Rev. Bletson, 1935-36, pews were installed in the church. Under the pastorate of the Rev. Swanson, front steps were constructed by the late Brother Isaiah Jackson. The windows were installed during the administration of Rev. W. A. Fowler. Rev. J. C. Foster was instrumental in clearing the lots north of the church for a parking lot. Under the leadership of Rev. N. W. Harper the parsonage was completely renovated and remodeled, a new roof was placed on the church and the interior of the church was renovated. Under the administration of our present pastor, Rev. G. H. Warren, new pews and carpeting have been installed in the sanctuary, new steps and sidewalks have been constructed, a new bulletin board erected and the pulpit and choir chairs have been renovated.

St. John

A.M.E. Church—Omaha, Nebraska

1865-1976



St. John A.M.E. Church was organized in the Fall of 1865 with a membership of five, by Rev. John M. Wilkerson. The meeting for organizing the church thus antedated the Statehood of Nebraska by two years. In the Summer of 1867 the first lot was purchased at 18th and Webster Streets, and the first church was built for \$1,000.00. Twenty-five pastors served St. John from 1865 to 1875. One from among the pastors, Rev. Henry Blanton Parks, was elected a Bishop in 1908, after serving the church from 1886 to 1908. The membership of the church grew and made a move in 1918.

In 1921 the lots of the present church were purchased and by 1923 a stone foundation had been built. The pastor then serving was a Race man and he led his church in many community advancements. On Easter Sunday, 1923, the congregation, membership, and choirs singing, "We're Marching to Zion," marched from their second church to the present location at 22nd and Willis Ave. The cornerstone of the auditorium was laid on July 27, 1930.

The first church parsonage was purchased in 1918. It was remodeled in 1956. The present manse, a beautiful modern home, was purchased in 1960. Our present pastor, Rev. Reuben Williams, came to us on September 25, 1975. Rev. Williams was born in Omaha, Nebraska on July 27, 1930 . . . yes, the very same day that

the cornerstone was laid at the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.

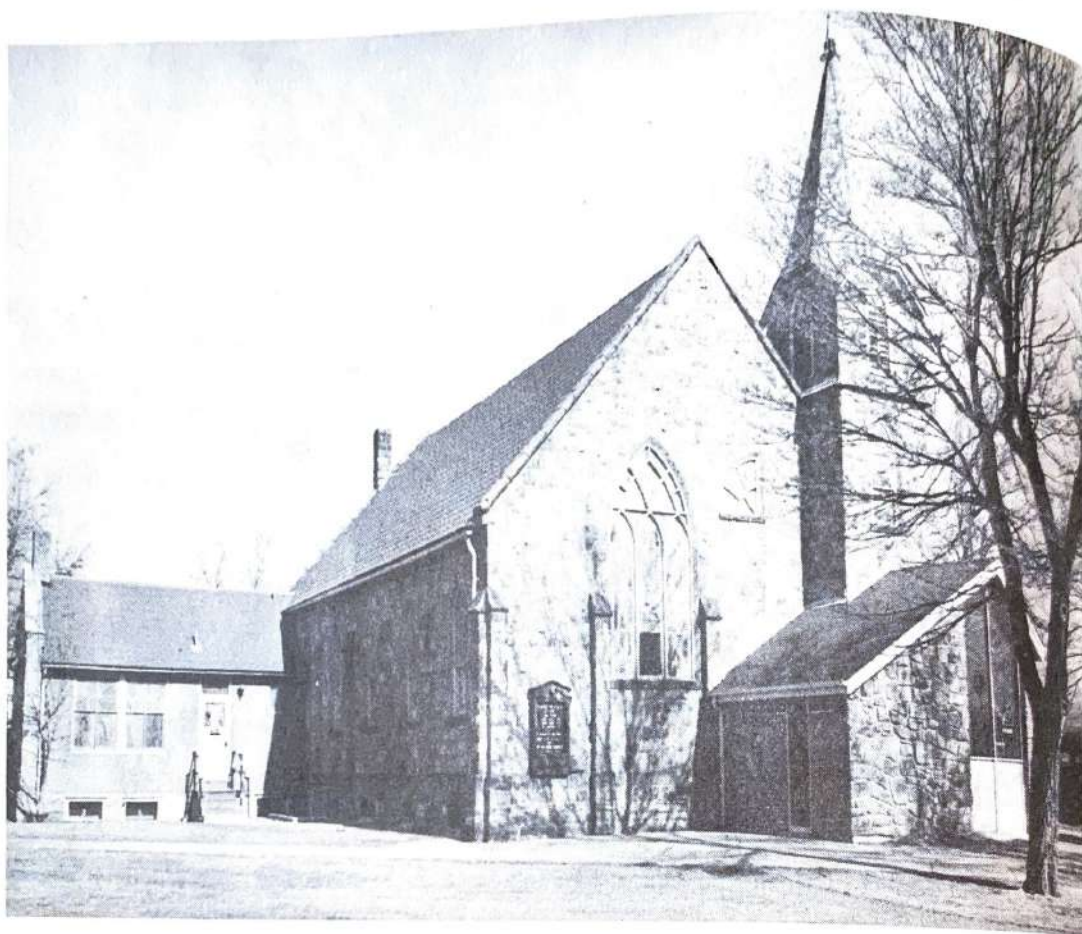


Rev. John R. Williams
Pastor

Payne Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Colorado Springs, Colorado

1872-1976



Back in 1872, four Carter brothers and their families moved to Colorado Springs from Pennsylvania and formed the nucleus from which sprang Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, named for Bishop Daniel Payne.

The record shows that Bishop J. M. Brown was the first Bishop who presided over the small mission church. The Annual Conference was held September 24, 1887 in Denver, Colorado.

Payne Chapel is the only A.M.E. church in Colorado Springs, a city with a 175,000 population. Rev. Lawrence E. Embray is the present pastor. Presiding Elder is Rev. Edward David Chappelle and Rev. Harrison J. Bryant is the present Bishop.



Rev. Lawrence E. Embray
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—San Francisco, California

1852-1976

Aboard the ship *Republic* coming to San Francisco was the Reverend Charles Stewart who gave to us February 11, 1852 the history of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. It began when Rev. Stewart met on ship Mr. Edward Gomez (he ran a boarding house in San Francisco), where Rev. Stewart and his son stayed; also, they attended Prayer Service at Gomez's home. From this meeting a group of five young men from Washington united

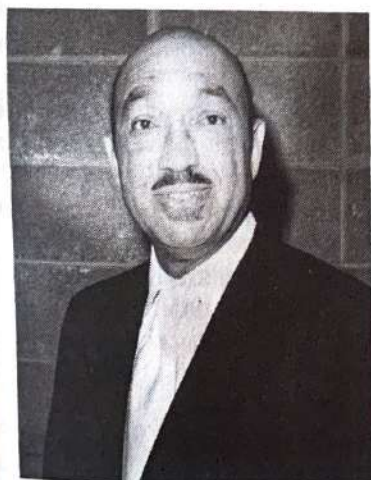


their efforts and secured a vacant house, renting for \$45.00 per month. The landlord, being a carpenter, built the pulpit and benches for \$100; and, on February 11, 1852, Rev. Stewart joined with Bethel.

February 22, 1852, Reverend George Taylor of Boston dedicated the African Methodist Episcopal meeting for Negroes in San Francisco.

The membership, going through many trials and bitter disappointments inclusive of the 1906 earthquake, pioneered through faith and trust in God to continue to build.

The membership began with seven faithful believers and today, in 1976, it is approximately 1400. It was from the carpenter shop in San Francisco that African Methodist spread throughout the West Coast. Today stands the fruits of many who have moved by faith and belief to the present edifice dedicated to God.



Rev. J. A. Hall
Pastor

First

JACKIE SLOAN'S
church
A.M.E. Church—Oakland, California

1858-1976



The history of First African Methodist Episcopal Church, originally known as Shiloah African Methodist Episcopal Church, might suffer slightly, if at all, by one or more inexactitudes; but fortunately there appears in the chronicle of events no meaningful difference in concepts as to the "who and why" in the beginning of First A.M.E. Church. Like most other churches, First A.M.E. Church began in a home, in 1858. In 1863, the Carpenter School House (Oakland's first school building) was purchased by this small group of people, who moved it to Seventh and West Streets, where it became the A.M.E. Church. Due to the fact that only Caucasians were permitted to attend public schools at this time, a school for minorities including primarily Negroes and Chinese was organized in this building. This school was conducted by this A.M.E. Church. Mrs. Elizabeth Flood, a member of the church, was the first school teacher for these minorities.

Laymen and local preachers held the congregation together for a period of 16 years. Then, in 1874, Reverend J. B. Sanderson was sent from Massachusetts, to be the first pastor, serving the same for 10 years. He was followed by Reverend James Grisby, who was destined to carry the church to higher heights. A new site and facility was purchased during the leadership of Reverend James Grisby, which was dedicated in March of 1884. This new church was located on 15th Street, near West Street. Being the center of Negro activities, it became known as: "Fifteenth Street Church," as a mark of identification and because of its location. In this new location, "Fifteenth Street Church" came into her own, serving and growing with the City of Oakland, keeping alive the motto of the parent body of the great African Methodist Episcopal Church: "Self Help and Racial Leadership."

While the Church had some very able ministers prior to 1949, the "Progress Regime" started under the pastorate of Reverend H. Solomon Hill, whose able leadership was the signal for the forward movement that led the congregation, in 1954, to the present site. The name was changed to First A.M.E. Church. The purchase of the edifice (totaling \$150,000.00) was engineered by a group of businessmen consisting of the following: Dr. Fitzroy E. Younge, M.D.; Atty. George L. Vaughns; Dr. Clay Wilson, M.D.; Mr. Aramis Fouche, undertaker; and Mr. E. A. Daly, realtor, who represented the church in the transaction. The money was obtained from the Trans Bay Federal Savings and Loan Association, a black-owned banking institution. Rev. Hill served from 1949 to 1960. Then, Rev. J. Russell Brown came, and his work was cut out for him.

First A.M.E. Church is appropriately named, since it is the oldest among all Negro churches in the immediate Bay Area, and has been "First" in the progress and development of the Black Community. Its Sunday morning broadcasts (made possible by the Jackson Funeral Home) are heard over Station KDIA at 10:00 a.m. The Church has led and served in every area of community responsibility and need; and is unparalleled in its' production of Christian lay leaders for the community.

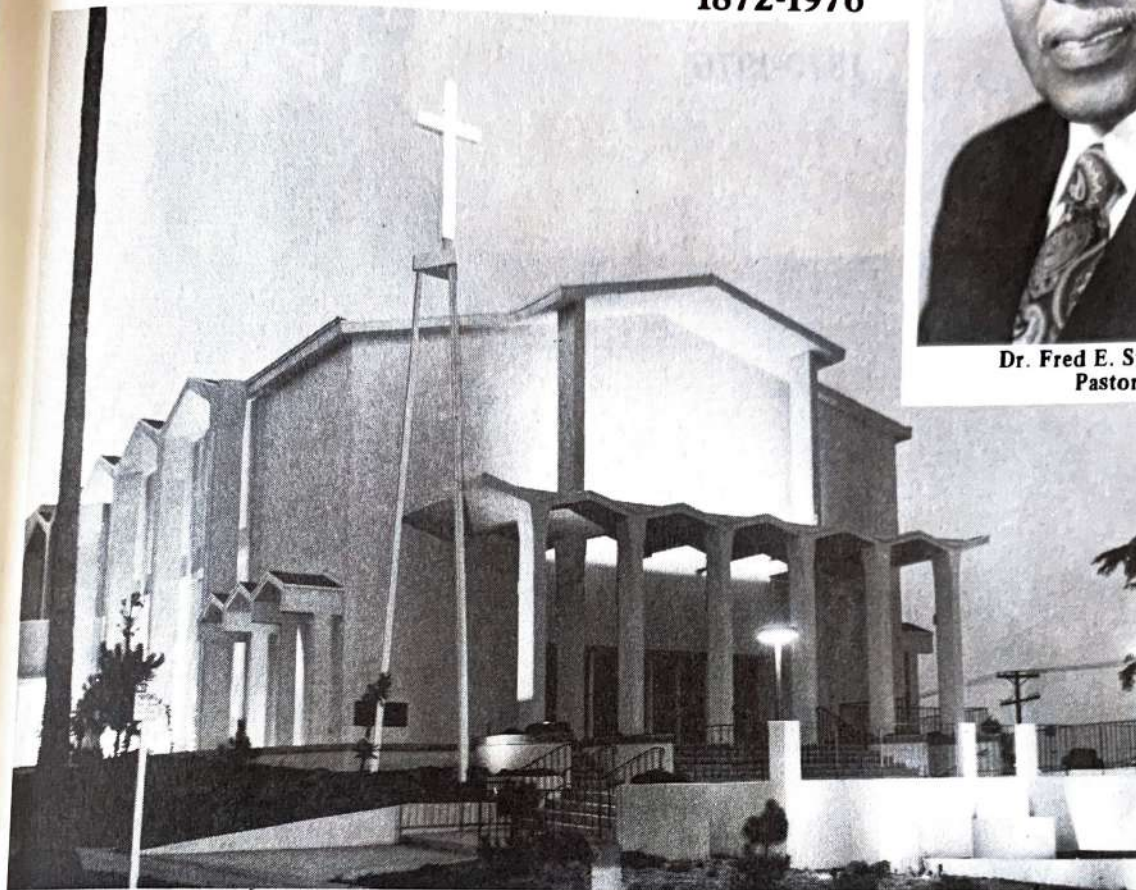
First

A.M.E. Church—Los Angeles, California

1872-1976



Dr. Fred E. Stephens
Pastor



In 1872, the first Black church was organized in Los Angeles, Stephens African Methodist Episcopal Church, now known at the First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles, California. First Church was organized in a bedroom of the residence of Mrs. Biddy Mason on Spring Street between Third and Fourth Streets. The Church was comprised of twelve persons, all believed to be laymen.

Biddy Mason, brought to California as a slave in 1851, fought for and won freedom for herself and three daughters on January 19, 1865. With faith, vision and industry, she prospered as the town grew, becoming a respected land owner in what is now downtown Los Angeles. A generous woman, she helped the needy of all races and is reported to have paid the taxes and expenses of several churches, both Black and White.

The Youth Center and offices were added to First Church, Eighth and Towne under Rev. Frederick D. Jordan, now a Bishop of the A.M.E. Church. The new imposing church edifice at 2270 S. Harvard Boulevard was built in 1968-69 by Dr. H. H. Brookins who was elected a Bishop in 1972. The present pastor, Dr. Fred E. Stephens, came to First Church August, 1972 and purchased the present parsonage at 5858 Citrus Avenue in Windsor Hills. Dr. Stephens recognized the fiscal policy of the church in such a way that over \$250,000.00 was paid on a million dollar plus indebtedness. First Church is financially and spiritually sound. The services are uplifting and worshipful and visitors from Europe, the West Indies and across America have been in attendance.

Big Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Atlanta, Georgia

1870-1976



Rev. Reuben T. Bussey
Pastor

Although it is credited by Rev. E. B. Carter in "The Black Side" as being the first Negro church established in Atlanta, Big Bethel did not start out as a unit of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It was founded by a Black member of Bethel Tabernacle, Brother Joseph Woods. In 1865 the doctrines and policies of the A.M.E. Church were explained to Brother Woods, who became a member, class-leader, and lay preacher. He and Brother Wesley J. Gaines, who later became a Bishop, were ordained as deacons at the Annual Conference held in Savannah, Georgia in March, 1866 by Bishop Daniel Payne.

Over the years, Big Bethel was the main site of political and civic mass meetings from the time of Bishop Gaines in the late 1860's down through the years of Martin Luther

Kings, Jr. during the 1960's. Its pastors have been spokesmen for civil rights, and some of the members have led the Atlanta civil rights causes.

In 1968 the trustees of Big Bethel, under the leadership of its current pastor, Rev. Rueben T. Bussey, signed a quarter million dollar contract for the complete renovation of the church. In 1970, the congregation voted to, and then erected a 182-unit high rise complex, Bethel Towers.



Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Trenton, New Jersey

1811-1976



Dr. L. Sylvester Odom and Family

The Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first colored religious organization of Trenton, had its beginning in a religious society known as "The Religious Society of Free Africans of the City of Trenton" and effected its first incorporation February 16, 1811. The trustees making the application were James Berry, Julius Stewards, Leonard Ennis, Sampson Peters and Francis Miller. In 1816, the year of the first and organizing General Conference of the A.M.E. Church, Richard Allen, the founder, organizer and first Bishop of the denomination, visited the organization and admitted them into the Connection. The congregation for many years was known as the "Mount Zion African Church." Sampson Peters, one of the original incorporators, was a preacher and became the first regular pastor in 1816 serving until 1819. The first building was erected in 1819 on the plot now occupied by the present building. A reincorporation was effected July 18, 1834, adopting the present name.

Among the fifty-two pastors serving the church for these one hundred and eleven years, three became Bishops of the Connection. The longest pastorate was that of the Rev. Solomon Porter Hood (1910-16), who afterwards became United States Minister to the Republic of Liberia. The physical structure of the church remained the same for years with only minor additions and improvements. Under the administration of Rev. D. M. Owens (1947-1955) the church received a facelift and the entire front of the church was changed to what it looks like today. Under our present dynamic spiritual leader, Dr. L. Sylvester Odom, Mt. Zion began to grow. In 1974 it was voted upon by the church body to purchase the property at 131 Perry St., now known as the E. L. Hickman Center for Human Renewal. With such a center, we at Mt. Zion are able to do so much more than in the past.

Shorter Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Eastman, Georgia

1871-1976



Rev. H. R. Ricks
Pastor



In the year 1871, a church was established in Eastman, Georgia and named for the late Bishop James A. Shorter. The present building was erected in 1885 under the leadership of Rev. R. Ford who was then pastor. Years later, in 1918, members saw a need for minor repairs. Among the significant changes was the removal of the choir stand from the rear to the front of the church. This change was made under the able leadership of Rev. Multree who served as pastor. Further, Rev. Mason, serving as pastor of Shorter in 1958, also made repairs; instead of allowing wooden steps to remain at the church entrance, he replaced them with cement ones which added more grace and beauty to the church.

Additionally, in 1940, the pastor and members saw further need of repairing the physical structure of Shorter; therefore, a new top was replaced by the old one and the entire church was painted. The pastor instrumental in carrying out this project was Rev. S. W. Crawford. Eight years later, in 1948, Rev. C. Clark and the congregation put new windows in. Years passed and the membership grew, improvements were made and up-to-date comforts were secured in order to enhance the beauty and comforts of all who visited Shorter. Thus, among the comforts and added beauty was the installation of gas heaters and new doors. Rev. Hoff spearheaded this project.

Other notable pastors also helped to build and uplift Shorter. They were Rev. J. E. Curry, Rev. W. C. Robinson, E. Smith and others. The physical features were special undertakings of the pastor and members. Modern facilities such as restrooms, additional light fixtures, paneling and interior painting all done in 1975 under the leadership of our present pastor, Rev. H. R. Ricks. Shorter Chapel is truly one of the historical churches in our community and history continues to be made. The church is now experiencing new growth, new and brighter visions, and above all, up-to-date programs for the total church and the entire community.

St. Thomas

A.M.E. Church—Thomasville, Georgia

1867-1976



Rev. J. L. Butler, Jr.
Pastor

St. Thomas African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1867 under a brush arbor on the spot where the church stands today, with Elder Bonnie Thompson as its first pastor. Elder Porter came after the administration of Elder Thompson, and started construction on the first church building, a wooden structure. This building, with a bell and tower, was completed by Elder Dowdell. Rev. J. B. Lofton, Rev. Adams, Rev. R. R. Downs, and Rev. I. S. Hamilton, were the next ministers, in order, named. They held great revivals and many members were added to the church.

The Sunday School, organized soon after the church was started, has been alive through the years. Bro. Tom White was its first superintendent. Bro. W. L. Dawkins and Bro. Richard Brown, are now carrying on with a very fine program of Christian education, and have a van that picks up students each Sunday.

A group of women, with true missionary spirit, played an important part in the advancement of the church and its program, serving as Stewardesses, Auxiliaries and missionaries. The church, having made some progress through the years, was remodded in 1900 by the Rev. P. H. M. Brokens. This met the needs of the congregation for a while, but was later completely remodded into its present form by Rev. G. B. Jackson. The parsonage was erected April, 1919, under Rev. R. H. Ward, pastor. The Rev. J. L. Butler, Jr., is the present pastor.

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Savannah, Georgia

1865-1976



Rev. A. L. Washington
Pastor

With the challenge "Let us build a Tabernacle" the late and highly esteemed Bishop Henry McNeil Turner and a group of followers founded Savannah's second AME Church. The church was organized as St. James Tabernacle in a blacksmith shop located in the old Jones field. Later, a modern church home, including a parsonage, was erected on the corner of Arnold and Perry Streets, and became known as St. James A.M.E. Church.

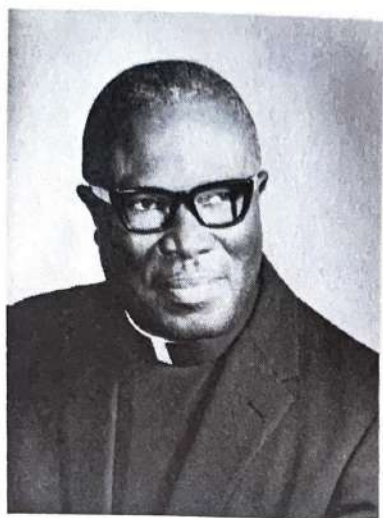
In 1952, the congregation found it necessary to move to make room for a new housing project. Under the leadership of Rev. S. C. Thornton, the church home was sold, a lot was purchased on the corner of 32nd and Atlantic Avenue, and groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church home were held on Sunday, January 4, 1953.

On the third Sunday of June 1953, the congregation marched from Bethel to their new church home. Today our sanctuary is comfortable and beautiful. It is a place of joy and pride to the entire congregation. It is also a great compliment to our present leader, Rev. A. L. Washington.

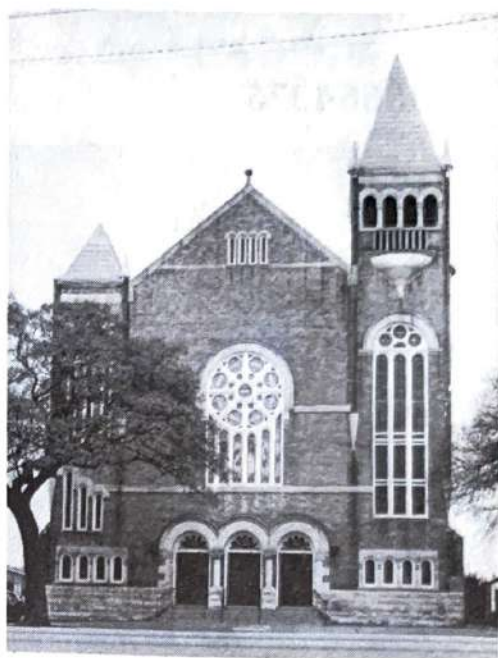
St. Philip

A.M.E. Church—Savannah, Georgia

1865-1976



Rev. Benjamin Gay
Pastor



In 1865, at the close of the war between the states, Negro Methodists in Savannah were under the watch care of the Methodist Church South. The very first A.M.E. Minister to visit Savannah after the war between the states was the Reverend James Lynch, who was instrumental in bringing Negro Methodists into the fold of African Methodism. The first African Methodist Church in the States of Georgia was organized by the Reverend A. L. Stanford, June 16, 1865, at Savannah, Georgia and was given the name Saint Philip A.M.E. Church. Two months and fifteen days later, the Sunday School was organized.

Rev. Stanford was followed by the following pastors, R. B. Gibbs, Henry Strickland Henry Taylor, Henry McNeal Turner (who later became Bishop) and served until 1891. During this administration the church was completed and cleared of all debts. Rev. J. N. M. Smith served faithfully from 1891 to 1895 and was followed by Rev. L. H. Smith, who served for four years, 1895-1899.

In September, 1896, the church was demolished by a storm and was a mass of ruins; shortly thereafter, the officers and pastor purchased the property on Charles and West Broad Streets. Following the pastorship of Reverend Smith were the following: Rev. C. A. Cargele, Rev. C. W. Newton, Rev. F. R. Simms, Rev. J. A. Lindsay. During the administration of Rev. Lindsay, a rally was begun for the erection of the Greater St. Philip A.M.E. Church. During the pastorate of Rev. Singleton, who followed Rev. Lindsay, the present brick structure was completed. Other pastors, in chronological order, were Rev. R. V. Branch, Rev. S. W. Woods, Rev. Frank Thomas, Rev. B. S. Hannah, Rev. J. L. Butler, Rev. M. A. Fountain, Rev. S. R. Dinkins, Rev. H. W. Murph and Rev. John S. Bryan.

The pastorate of the present pastor, Rev. Benjamin Gay, has been one of the most illustrious ones in the annals of St. Philip A.M.E. Church. The membership has increased considerably. Additionally, the church has been renovated throughout and completely air conditioned; land for sufficient parking has been purchased; a modern new parsonage has been erected and a church school bus has been purchased. Surely, under the dynamic leadership of Rev. Gay, an enormous amount of progress has been made.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Columbia, South Carolina

1866-1976



Rev. J. A. Holmes
Pastor

The year 1866 marked the beginning of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The newly emancipated followers of African Methodism organized Bethel Society one year after the close of the Civil War in an old sword factory on Wayne Street. Records indicate that this property, owned by the Bethel Society, was donated to the city of Columbia by the congregation for educational purposes.

The congregation again moved to a blacksmith shop on Sumter Street, but worshipped there for a short time before they purchased the present site and constructed a large building to house the increasing membership. While the new church was being built the members were granted permission to worship in the First Presbyterian Church. The history of Bethel is "one pervaded by a philosophy of liberal Christianity and highlighted by the names of some of the greatest preachers in our denomination," the minister says. Bethel draws members and supporters from all parts of Greater Columbia and is known as a downtown community church.

Rev. J. Arthur Holmes' years at Bethel represent almost one fourth of the time the church has been in existence. During his tenure he has taken the ministry beyond its walls. Bethel maintains a full schedule of parish activities in addition to operating a \$2.5 million Bethel Bishop Chappelle housing project for the low-income families in Columbia.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Vicksburg, Mississippi

1864-1976



In 1864 the Reverend Page Taylor, a missionary from Indiana, journeyed down the Mississippi River from Missouri to Vicksburg, where he established a mission. From that mission developed Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest A.M.E. church in the State of Mississippi. In 1865 Dr. Thomas W. Stringer came to Vicksburg with a copy of the A.M.E. Discipline and the Masonic ritual. Dr. Stringer organized the congregation, established other churches, lodges, and schools.

After the Civil War, Bethel's small congregation purchased the property of First Presbyterian Church (white) at the corner of Monroe and First East Streets, the site of the present church. During Reconstruction, Bethel served as a focal point for the interests of Freedmen. The Hon. Hiram R. Revels, the first Black man to serve in the U.S. Senate, came to Vicksburg with the Freedmen's Bureau and pastored Bethel.

Campbell College was organized in Bethel Church, January 14, 1890. Bethel has furnished two presidents to Alcorn State University, a U.S. Senator, and a State Senator. Four city schools have been named for members of Bethel, and the Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's Clubs had their inception there. Reverend George A. Sewell is the present pastor.

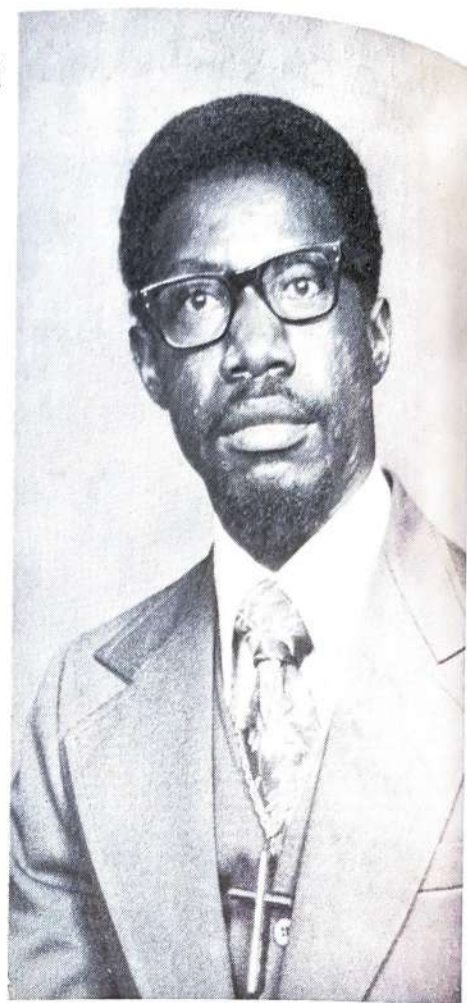
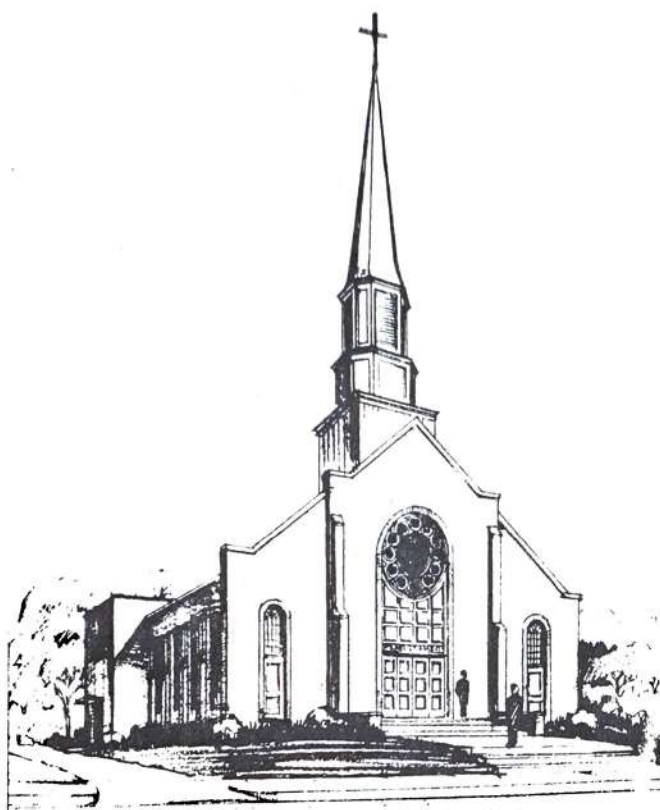


Dr. George A. Sewell
Pastor

Pearl Street

A.M.E. Church—Jackson, Mississippi

1865-1976



Rev. Thomas B. Brown
Pastor

Pearl Street African Methodist Episcopal Church formerly known as Foley's Chapel A.M.E. Church began as a mission in 1865 on Pearl Street near the old church site. Initially, the church began with the missionaries, Reverend Page Tyler and Reverend T. W. Stringer. The first physical plant was built on the old church property and took the name of its pastor, Reverend H. M. Foley. From this little church went forth one of its first licentiate, Reverend C. S. Smith, who helped organize the Sunday School Union Department and later became one of the Episcopal Fathers of the Church. The little mission was nurtured in its infancy Reverend T. W. Stringer until Rev. Foley accepted the reins.

The second phase of the history of Pearl Street began with Reverend J. E. Carter. It was under his administration that Foley Chapel and the parsonage was moved to face Clifton Street. It was during this time that a new church was erected facing Pearl Street. It was at this time that the church assumed the name "Pearl Street." Foley Chapel was reconstructed at Campbell College in Foley Hall.

The present pastor is Reverend Thomas B. Brown, who in the second year of his administration has proven to the City of Jackson his worth as a pastor, his dynamics in administration, organization, and leadership. Pearl Street has taken on a new character and promises of a bright future. Pearl Street is an important chapter in the huge volume of the edifices of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The structure in material worth and spiritual value stands as a citadel of African Methodism in the State of Mississippi, and a brightened monument to the sainted souls who have passed this way.

St. James

A.M.E. Church—New Orleans, Louisiana

1844-1976



Rev. R. H. Tucker, Sr.
Pastor



Late in the summer of 1844 a number of people came together and decided to establish a church under the sole control of the Negro people. In pursuance of this idea, John Pearson, James Jordan, George Cryer, James Hunter, James Berry, John Matthews, John Bland, Salem Campbell, Henry Mayers and Mr. Hodge, banded themselves together with Charles Doughty as their Preacher, and began to hold services. In September the same year they first rented a lot at the corner of Villere and Bienville Streets and erected a shed in which they worshipped.

After the Legislature of the State of Louisiana granted an act of incorporation to the African Methodist Episcopal Church on October 5, 1848, a charter was applied for and Charles Doughty was sent North to the Indiana Annual Conference and ordained to the office of Elder and given full authority to establish the A.M.E. Church in this State.

St. James A.M.E. Church actively served its Negro community during the Civil War. It aided the cause of freedom for the slaves. The first company of Negro Soldiers, in this section of the South, was recruited at St. James Chapel by Colonel James Lewis. His marriage to Miss Josephine Blanche Joubert on January 6, 1864 was solemnized at St. James Chapel in a very colorful wedding ceremony at which army officers and soldiers of the Union Army were in attendance.

The cornerstone of this present building, as remodeled, was laid December 31, 1848, and was completed some time in 1851. The building was originally constructed by the Reverend D.A. Graham and was rededicated November 15, 1903.

Greater St. Matthew

A.M.E. Church—Shreveport, Louisiana
1875-1976



Rev. Johnny Barbour, Jr.
Pastor



From its first services beneath a "brush arbor" on Marshall Street, in May 1875, to its present site at the corner of Pierre Avenue and Murphy Street, Greater St. Matthew African Episcopal Church, has owned several pieces of property and has grown significantly, during its one-hundred year existence. Bishop John M. Brown and Presiding Elder Charles Burch, with eighteen members, were organizers of what was to become the first church in the North Louisiana Conference. The Rev. James Franklin erected the first building in 1878 on the corner of Grand Avenue and Reynold Street, now Milam Street. In 1926, the church was rebuilt at its present site with the Rt. Rev. S. L. Greene and the Rev. B. J. Jackson as Bishop and pastor respectively.

During the pastorate of the Rev. David J. Brown, the Howard Thomas Primm Education Building and church parsonage were erected. Presently serving as Bishop, Presiding Elder and Pastor respectively are the Rt. Rev. I. H. Bonner, the Rev. George Tomkies and the Rev. Johnny Barbour, Jr.

Emanuel

A.M.E. Church—Mobile, Alabama

1857-1976



Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church was purchased March 17, 1857 from Mrs. Mary A. McDonald and her husband John T. McDonald for the sum of \$2,050.00. The present building was erected in 1891. It's indeed a beautiful structure with one of the most beautiful chandeliers of the city in any church.

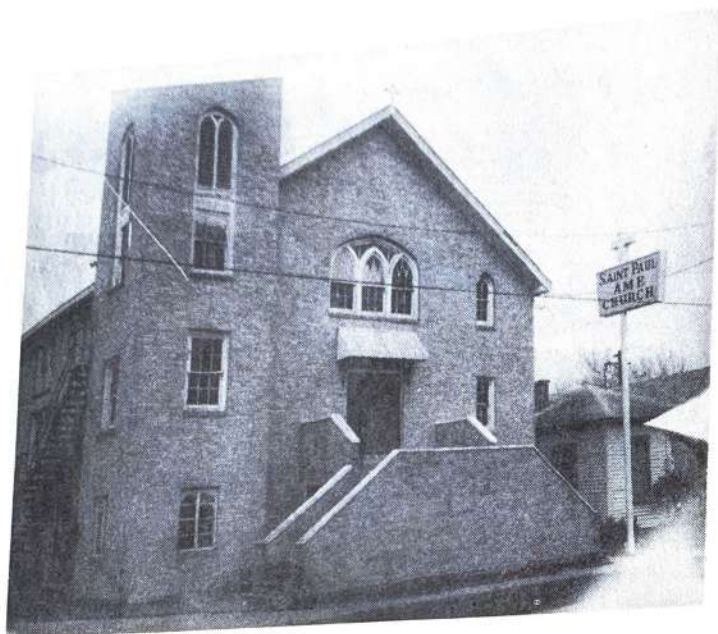


Rev. S. M. Dees
Pastor

St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—Houston, Texas

1869-1976



Rev. Albert Smith Bluit Jones
Pastor

When our Metropolitan City was in it's infancy, God stirred among the leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and directed them to establish the first church in Houston. This church was established in 1869, named in honor of the St. Paul and was one of the first for free people of our race.

Rev. David Wren was the first pastor and the first church was completed in 1873 and was host for the Annual Conference first to be held in Houston.

Our church has been rebuilt many times, but always on the same lot. Some of the pastors who helped to rebuild were: The Rev. R. C. Morgan, the late Rev. A. R. Bogan, the late Rev. J. T. Simpson, the late Rev. E. J. Davis, the late Rev. L. D. Bennett, and the late Rev. T. L. Sanders. The present pastor, the Rev. A. S. B. Jones, serving his sixth Conference year, has made many improvements in the short time that he has been at St. Paul.

St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—Waco, Texas

1872-1976



JOHN HURST ADAMS, Presiding Bishop
Tenth Episcopal District (Texas Area)
African Methodist Episcopal Church



MRS. JOHN HURST (DOLLY) ADAMS
Supervisor
Women's Missionary Society

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church at 208 Webster Street, established in 1872, is "The Mother Church of African Methodism in Waco." Bishop John Hurst Adams is the Presiding Bishop. Missionary Supervisor is Mrs. D. D. Adams. Dr. R. T. Thomas is the Presiding Elder and James R. Anderson is pastor at St. Paul.

Mother Midway

A.M.E. Church—Jacksonville, Florida

1865-1976



Rev. Willie D. Young
Pastor

After the issue of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, freeing the Negroes from bonds of slavery in the Southern States, two large Industrial plants were built in Jacksonville, one in the extreme northern part of the city, and the other one in the extreme southern part.

The Negroes that were employed by the industries decided that they wanted a central meeting place to worship. In 1865 June 10, The Reverend Charles Pearce, was sent to Florida by Bishop Daniel A. Payne as a Missionary to organize the church. The Reverend W. G. Steward was the first pastor. Other important dates were:

- 1901 Rev. R. L. Brown was appointed and served as first Sunday School Superintendent.
- 1922 The church moved to its present site by Rev. A. Bennett.
- 1926 The building was mortgaged and completed by Rev. A. B. Rose.
- 1935-38 The mortgage was burned under the leadership of Rev. K. D. White.
- 1964 The Educational Building was completed by Rev. John W. Jones.
- 1965-70 The old church was demolished, the mortgage was paid off by Rev. Benjamin J. Franklin.
- 1970-74 In September 1973 we moved from the Educational Building to the New Church, The cornerstone was laid and the Church Dedicated; lights, floor, top put on church, and windows.
- 1974-76 Completion of Interior and Exterior of Sanctuary, and Annex. This progress was made under the leadership of our dynamic minister, Reverend Willie D. Young, who is presently serving, and who deserve a standing ovation for this outstanding services.

Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—Jacksonville, Florida

1866-1976

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church has an interesting history, dating back to the days before the Negroes of the South received their emancipation. It was during those dismal days, sometimes during the summer of 1866, that a small group of Christians bound together by an unfaltering trust in God and faith in their fellowmen decided to form an organization known as a Society, the purpose of which was religious worship.

The Society sent a petition to the Annual Conference of Georgia, in Savannah, asking for a pastor. They received Rev. William Bradwell as pastor, and Rev. Charles Pierce as Presiding Elder of Florida. The group was organized as Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, July 28, 1866 and took charge of the property, to wit: 105 feet square on the northeast corner of Beaver and Newman Streets, which they acquired before their emancipation. The membership at this time was between 75 and 100. Several of these had been members of the Methodist Church South (White), by whom they were encouraged and given both financial and spiritual assistance.

The sixth and present structure of the church is constructed of brick, upon a stone foundation, trimmed with fire bricks. It was started under the pastorate of Rev. E. J. Gregg in the year 1902, when the lecture room or basement was completed. The main auditorium with stained glass windows, seats, electrical lights, pulpit, altar and pipe organ was all begun during the pastorate of Rev. S. A. Williams, but the full completion of this magnificent structure of two stories, with balcony running across the south end of the main auditorium, was completed during the first year of the pastorate of Rev. D. M. Baxter, D.D. This building has a stewards' room, ushers' room, pastor's study, Sunday School rooms, kitchen, and rest rooms. The present pastor is Rev. F. R. Satchel, D.D.



Rev. F. R. Satchel, D.D.
Pastor

Mt. Olive

A.M.E. Church—Jacksonville, Florida

1868-1976



Mount Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in Jacksonville, Florida during the year 1868. A "Prayer House" or "Bush Arbor" was built in the old Hardee Mill Quarters now known as Commodore's Point. Henry and Taner Lloyd with followers were responsible for this beginning. Mrs. Celia Butler prevailed with her husband to permit this small group of Christians to hold their services in the Butler home. Mr. Butler, not as religious as his wife, soon became tired of this group singing and praying in his home; however, Sister Butler persuaded her husband to give a track of land to this dedicated band of Christians. Thus, the first meeting place was made secure and the Mission was established under the Rev. R. A. Grant in 1870.

Rev. R. B. Sutton was responsible for the completion of the basement of the present structure and plans for erecting the main auditorium was submitted in 1927-29, under the auspices of Rev. and Mrs. A. J. McCormick. A gigantic financial drive resulted in the present auditorium completion and the congregation marched from the basement to the beautifully decorated auditorium.

Mount Olive follows the pattern of dedicated service to the community. Emphasizing Spiritual growth, services to humanity and the education of mankind for living in today's world. Rev. Elisha Jones is the present minister.

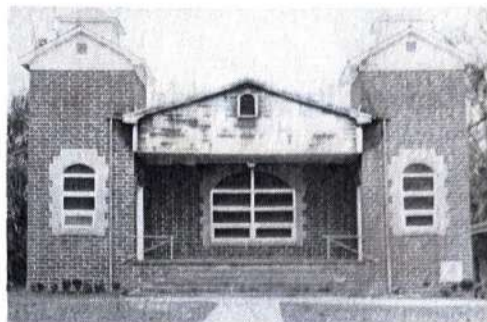


Rev. Elisha Jones
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Lamont, Florida

1867-1976



Rev. Sylvester Stewart
Pastor

The history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Florida began June 22, 1865 with the appointment of Rev. William G. Steward as pastor of Florida. Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized May 15, 1865, under Bishop D. A. Payne, presiding over the South Carolina Conference in Charleston. Another minister, Elder Charles Pearce, came to Florida in February, 1866, and found churches not fully organized in the area, so worked hard to organize and set up many churches properly. He arrived in Monticello on March 25, 1866, preached in the A.M.E. Building and received 343 members. In 1867 a wooden church building was erected on the present site and named Bethel A.M.E. Church. This old building was torn down in 1961 and a brick building erected on the same site. This work was begun and completed under the pastorate of the Rev. Willie Jones and Presiding Elder C. T. Sikes. On Tuesday night, November 18, 1975 this building was damaged by fire. Plans are being made to make a larger and better Bethel by the pastor Rev. Sylvester Stewart and members.

Mt. Zion

A.M.E. Church—New Port, Rhode Island

1863-1976

The liberal policy of the slave-holders, as to the education and social customs of the slaves, made for many independent efforts on their part at organization. The African Union Society, the African Benevolent Society, and a few other minor associations were attempted by the early Negro citizens of Newport. At this time, all of the slaves were members of the several Caucasian churches. The rule of separate places and services for the colored people led to the effort of a special church by and for themselves. The influence of the African Benovolent Society caused a meeting to be called January 6, 1824, at which time plans for a withdrawal were made. On the 23rd, another meeting was held in the Moravian Church where resolutions were framed to "form our own church with a pastor of our own color."

On February 24th, in the old Fourth Baptist Church, the Colored Union Church and Society was organized with the adoption of a constitution. This organization existed until May 24th, 1845, when a division was made creating the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Newport. This church was incorporated with the city in 1863. The first meeting place was a carpenter shop on Spring Street. It was called "Bethel," and Rev. Luke Waldon was its first pastor. The building, when abandoned as a church was used for a school for colored children.

An expansion was soon necessary, due to the rapid growth of the congregation and an improvised church was located on Green Lane (now Tilden Avenue). This was in a loft over a blacksmith shop. The service was often punctuated by the kicking of a horse or the neighing of a colt. A building was erected in 1857 and was paid for the same year. In this year the cornerstone laying was quite a ceremony. The building was 28 x 36 and had a seating capacity of 151. Worship was begun in this new edifice in 1860. A dedicatory service was held in 1861 by sixty-six members.

The church was admitted to the Annual Conference in June 1819. Rev. Henry Johnson was pastor; Rev. H. I. Johnson, Presiding Elder; the Rt. Rev. William P. Quinn; Presiding Bishop; and Brother James Fuller, Circuit Rider. Conference claims were 25 cents general claims and \$1.08 conference expenses.

Mt. Pisgah

A.M.E. Church—Lake City, Florida

1866-1976



Rev. R. L. Shaw and Family

The Mount Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in the hearts of ex-slaves who prayed, cried and truly believed in God. Twelve courageous, highly-spirited families of Lake City began worshipping together in each other's little cabin or each other's back yard. Eventually a garden of hope, faith, peace and meekness was discovered. This little spot was indeed the first Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church of Lake City. It was just a lowly bush arbor located in a section of town known as "Jasper Hill," in a vicinity near the old Lamb family home on the Saunders' acreage between Jefferson and Long Streets. The late Reverend C. H. Pearce organized the church on March 30 and April 2, 1866, in Lake City. Uncle Jerry Saunders, as he was called, was ordained to be the leader of the group because at the time he was the only one among them who could read the Bible a little. He had received his tutoring from the Cline family children, a family for whom he had served as a "house boy" during his enslavement. The old church moved well during the Uncle Jerry's leadership. Rev. Pearce became the first Presiding Elder of the district that covered a very, very wide territory that included areas as far as South Carolina. Bishop Wayman was the first Florida Bishop.

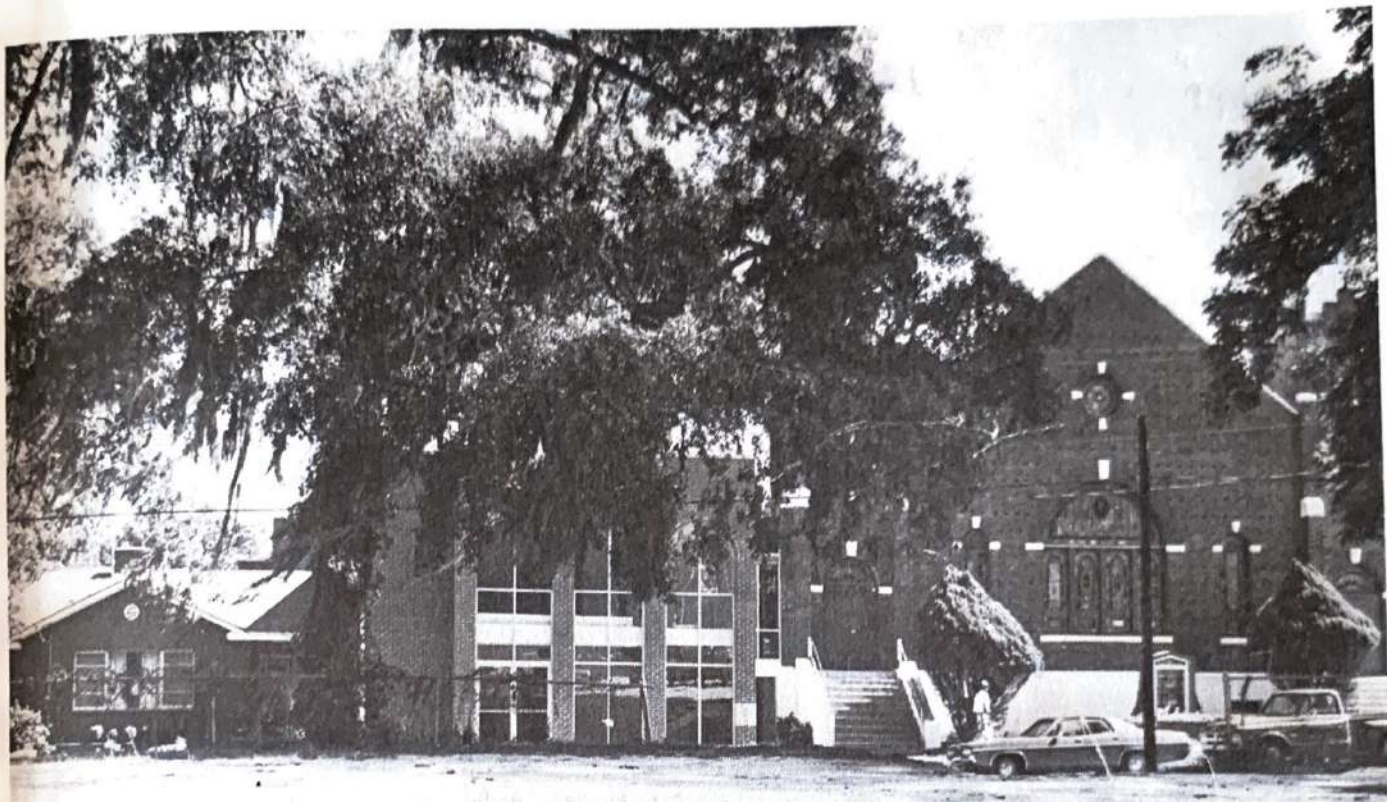
The congregation transferred from the little bush arbor to a log cabin, the second sanctuary of worship services. During the year 1879, a small wooden frame was erected on a site between the present site and the old site, approximately where the parsonage is now. This wooden building was known as the third Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church. In the year 1904, the late Rev. R. T. Gordon guided and directed the membership to erect the fourth edifice, the brick structure that will soon disappear.

Nearly eight years ago, our Annual Conference saw fit to give us a great builder, a dynamic leader, the Rev. Robert Lee Shaw. Rev. Shaw and his esteemed wife, Mary Lee, have shown evidence of their interest and desires for our community and Lake City. In 1970 he encouraged us to pool our efforts toward erecting a new church. January, 1971, our Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance assisted him by becoming involved in a ground-breaking ceremony for the fifth Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church. This structure shall be a shrine to the Shaw's memory.

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—Tallahassee, Florida

1866-1976



For a number of years the founding fathers of Historic Bethel worshipped under a brush arbor on the present location. Someone then was looking toward the future church and the coming generation and began the erection of the first church. On March 1, 1866, Rev. Charles Pearce arrived in Tallahassee and found the building under construction but the congregation was not properly organized. Rev. Pearce appointed the officers and officially organized the church with 116 members, they continued to worship under the "Brush Arbor" until the edifice was completed for worship services.

The original building was of wood construction and remained the same for many years, it was then brick veneered during the pastorate of Rev. Glen C. Bledsoe. This was done with very little expense with the donation of bricks by the various members.

Rev. M. T. Gaines demolished the old church, salvaging parts of it to help to build the present building. Rev. A. L. Bennett, during his pastorate, purchased the first heating plant. A pipe organ of the old manual type was used for many years, and was replaced by a more modern organ purchased by Rev. Graham. This was recently replaced by one of the most modern pipe organs during Rev. I. D. Hinson's administration. As the ministers have come and gone, each has made his contribution to the growth of this great church. Leaving an impact of memorable activities for the progress of the church. Rev. H. Z. Graham succeeded in burning the mortgage on the church. Under the leadership of Rev. I. D. Hinson, the church continued to grow spiritually and financially.



Rev. Ira D. Hinson
Pastor

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Camden, Arkansas

1868-1976



Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Church was first organized in Camden, Arkansas, in 1868 under the pastorate of Rev. S. A. Sutton. St. James was the first Negro A.M.E. Church organized after the Civil War. After the organization we are worshipping in the fifth building that has been erected. The first building was located on Grinstead Street. Some years later, a better location was desired, and the present location at 241 Center Street was purchased. The first building erected here was destroyed by fire, so a third building was erected in 1926, by Rev. V. M. Townsend. A modern brick basement replaced the third building. In 1937 under the pastorate of Rev. F. E. Churchill, the church auditorium was built. In 1969 our present building was erected under the Rev. N. L. Dove, a building we are proud of.

This church, today, with its understanding leadership and loyal members are happy to be a part of this organized body of baptized believers. We pray to ever hold to those principles of faith and doctrines that made us useful. May we always keep our wicks trimmed for service to God and our fellowmen, and may the light of truth keep burning that all may catch a glow. Our present pastor is Rev. E.D. McDonald.

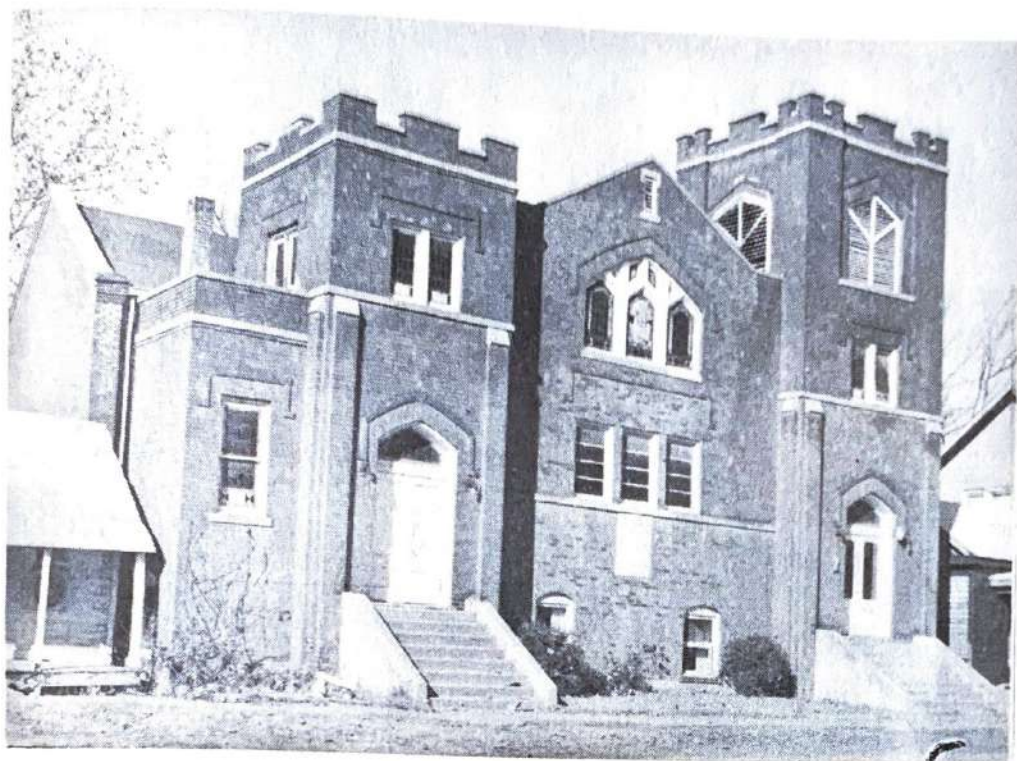


Rev. E. D. McDonald
Pastor

Carter Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Helena, Arkansas

1866-1976



The Carter Chapel A.M.E. Church was established in 1866 by the Rev. Adam Carter. As the Mother Church west of the Mississippi River, Carter Chapel has given service to the Helena community for more than 100 years.

The Reverend Carter who founded the church and was its first pastor, held services on the banks of the Mississippi River until a tent was secured and services were held there until the first church building was erected on the present site.

The church grew to over 400 members and the Reverend Carter served until 1915, when he was replaced by the Rev. W. E. Pruitt. The Rev. Samuel Wherry is the present pastor.

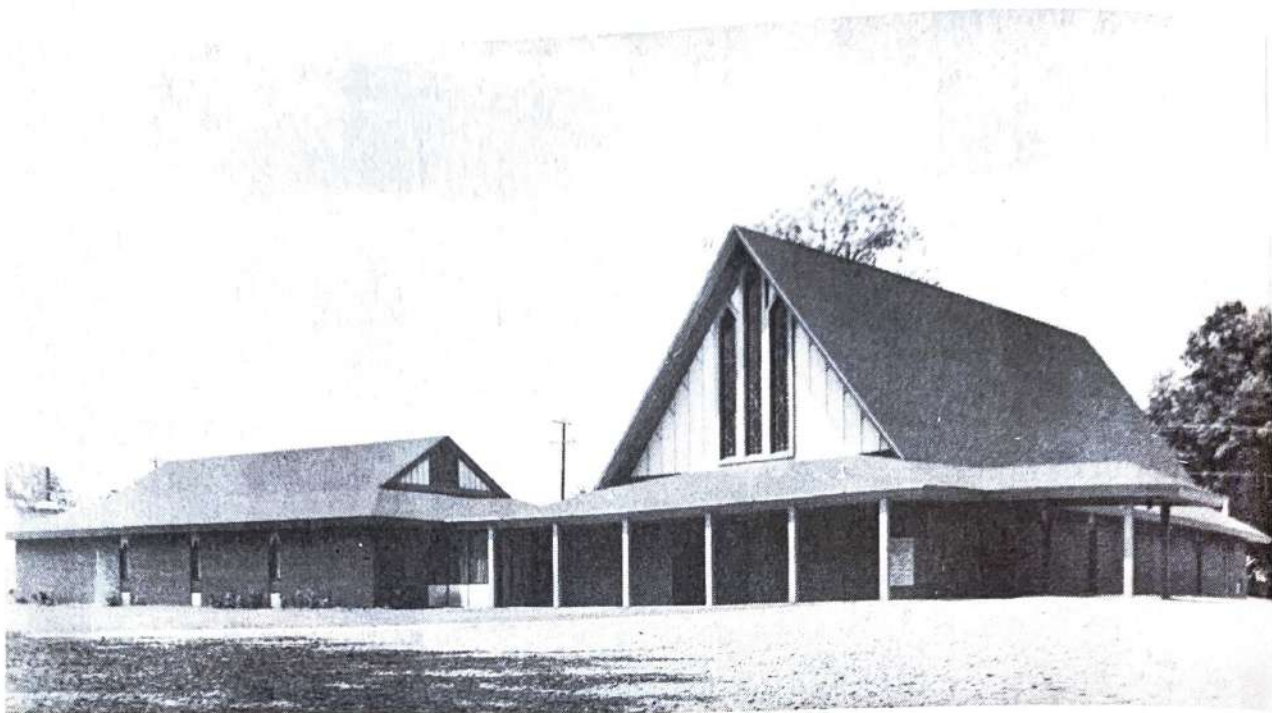


Rev. Samuel Wherry
Pastor

Bethel

A.M.E. Church—North Little Rock, Arkansas

1873-1976



Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 600 Cedar Street, North Little Rock, was organized in 1873—thus giving to the North Little Rock Community; the state of Arkansas; the 12th Episcopal District and the Connectional A.M.E. Church, 103 years of Christian service. The Church where “Leadership is Shared,” salute the Bishops, Connectional Council and the entire A.M.E. constituency on this history-making occasion. The first church was said to be a box structure built near the river bank just west of where Broadway Bridge now stands on what would probably be West Second Street. Thus was the beginning of a new African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Church named Little Bethel Congregation A.M.E. Church is believed to be the first home of the now modern plant at 600 Cedar Street. On Sunday, April 15, 1973, our new minister, Rev. John L. Phillips preached his first sermon as pastor of this Church. We are still moving forward, hoping, praying, trusting... for truly, “WE’VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH.”



Rev. John L. Phillips
Pastor

St. John

A.M.E. Church—Pine Bluff, Arkansas

1868-1976



Bishop Samuel S. Morris, Pastor Alexander and the Trustees burning the mortgage on the New Sanctuary, Sunday, February 11, 1973, that was completed in January, 1966.

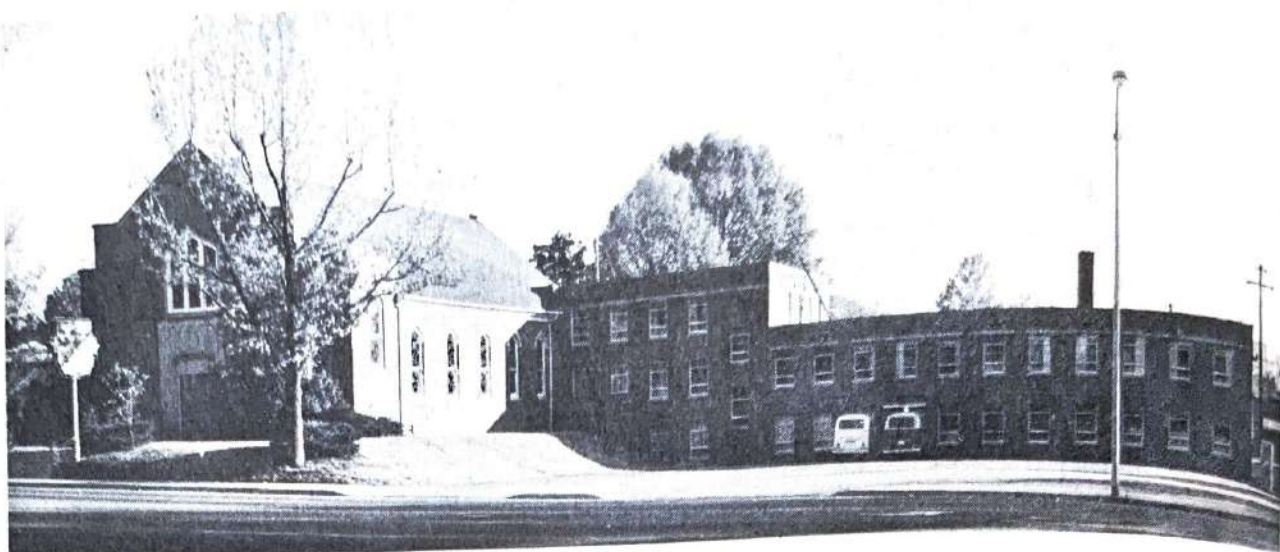
Early in the year 1868, traveling Elders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church met with Christian devotees who had been holding "prayer meetings" in the home of Brother and Sister Lucas, at the corner of Barraque and Linden Street, and the band was organized as St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church. Twice destroyed by fire and once by storm, St. John has been richly blessed with one hundred and seven years of glorious history. And the church has been served by able pastors. The Reverend Theophilus D. Alexander, presently in

his eighteenth year as pastor of the St. John Family, has led St. John to remarkably outstanding achievements. The congregation's stewardship responsibility has grown tremendously. The church is a vital force in the Pine Bluff Community, providing facilities for a Full Year Head Start Program for children of working mothers and low-rent housing (132 units) for moderate and low-income families. And the old edifice, erected in 1909, during the administration of the Rev. A. A. Fleming, has been replaced with a modern Educational Building and Sanctuary.

St. Andrew

A.M.E. Church—Memphis, Tennessee

1866-1976



St. Andrew African Methodist Episcopal Church had its early beginning as an organization, which later developed into a church, in the year of 1866 as a small group, first meeting from house to house; two years later secured the use of Phoenix School building, which was located on Rayburn and Carolina Streets. In 1868, a Rev. George Crew came to work with the group as their first pastor and organized them into a church naming it Phoenix Chapel, presumably, using the school's name. The organization had grown to a membership of more than 375. It was in 1872 that a Rev. Page Tyler assumed the pastorate of the church and led the membership into securing a lot on the corner of Calhoun and Avery Streets, where the first church building was erected. Signing the deed at the time were, Rev. Page Tyler, as pastor; Officers were, George Anderson, T. Maston, Paul Christan, Samuel Bryford, Robert Carruthers, Albert Sneed, James Davis, and J. W. Washington.

No accurate account can be produced, which tells when, and for what purpose the name was changed from Phoenix Chapel to St. Andrew. It is quite regrettable that this important piece of history escaped or was lost. In 1912, forty years later the second church edifice was erected during the pastorate of Rev. J. F. Griffin, with the first money which amounted to \$4,000 being raised under the leadership of a Rev. M. T. Cooper. The building was erected and served as the worship home of Saint Andrew until July, 1961, when the church purchased its present location on Parkway and Mississippi, under the leadership of its present pastor, Rev. Elmer M. Martin. The church as an organization is 110 years old.



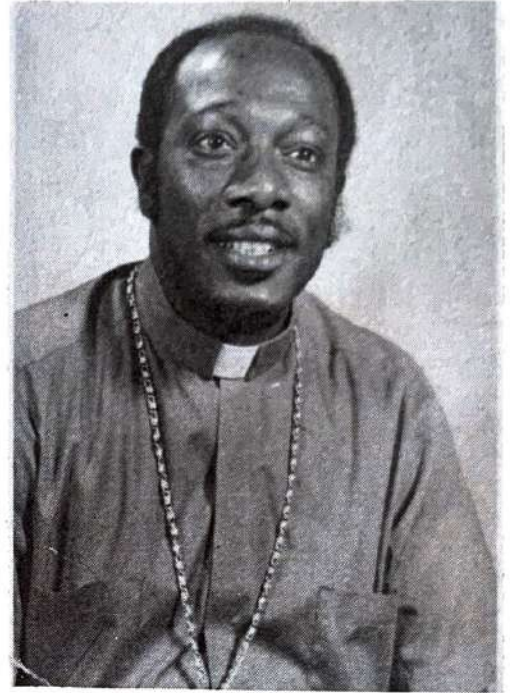
Rev. Elmer M. Martin
Pastor

St. Peter

A.M.E. Church—Clarksville, Tennessee



1866-1976



Rev. Robert E. Keesee
Pastor

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1866 by Rev. John Clairborne, who was visiting the city of Clarksville at the time. He saw an opportunity and the need to establish an A.M.E. Church; after conversing with several persons, he called them together and organized the church in the home of Rev. Napoleon Merry, who became the first pastor. He built a frame structure on South Second Street, which was the first church site. The lot was donated by Charles Beaumont, the first person to join. Rev. Merry was an outstanding religious leader in the community, he established the first school for Clarksville Black citizens.

The church soon outgrew the little frame structure or building. The Trustees then purchased a lot on Commerce Street where the Gorham Hall used to stand (across the street from Perkins & Miller) as that was in the residential section of the aristocratic whites. Several of the granddaughters of some of the first members are active members at present.

The Rev. Robert E. Keesee, is the present pastor, he is a native Clarksvillian, educated in the schools of Montgomery Comunty, Clarksville. He is a church builder and organizer (built two in Mufreesboro, Tenn). He is an Educator, the dean of Christian Education for the Thirteenth Episcopal District, and Vice President, Clarksville Chapter, NAACP.

1838-1976

Quinn Chapel

A.M.E. Church—Louisville, Kentucky



Rev. J. P. Ashworth, III
Pastor

The origin of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is interwoven with a tradition that is as remarkable for its stand upon redemption and its association with the predominant movement of the time as was the spirit and faith of the men and women who fanned to flame the heritage that has come down to us through the years, unblemished and inviolated. Quinn Chapel was organized in the spring of 1838 by Bishop Paul Quinn, the first Negro Bishop that ever visited Louisville. The first meeting was held in a building on Main Street opposite the site of the old Galt House, near Second Street. The first pastor was Reverend George W. Johnson. This location served the congregation for several years.

Quinn Chapel, now strategically located in her home at 912 West Chestnut Street, has assumed leadership in the community worthy of its historic past and had a prominent role in the development of the religious and civic life within the city. Because of her large seating capacity, she became the mecca of all cultural and civic meetings. The General Church began to take notice of this commanding position; and as a result more illustrious ministers were sent to her pastorate.

Five of her pastors have been elevated to the Episcopacy. These pastors were: William Paul Quinn, founder; Evans Tyree, Noah W. Williams, Frank Madison Reid and Ernest L. Hickman. Quinn Chapel, the mecca of African Methodism in Kentucky, is proud and justly so of her rich heritage.

St. Paul

A.M.E. Church—Lexington, Kentucky

1790-1976



In 1790 the first Annual Conference was held in the first Methodist Church building in Kentucky, a log cabin at Masterson Station, five miles northwest of Lexington, with Bishop Francis Asbury as its presiding officer. This became the first station in Lexington and comprised 77 members— 47 of which were white, the remaining were Black. Thus, these 30 Black Christians in this Methodist body became the first African Methodist Episcopalians in Kentucky.

On July 8, 1862, the organization purchased a 125 by 100 foot lot. It was upon this plot of ground on North Upper Street that the present building was erected in 1803. The organization was an independent branch of Methodism until the year 1865, when Rev. C. T. Shaffer was placed in charge as its pastor under the Annual Conference of the A.M.E. Church, which extended over Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, under Bishop Daniel A. Payne. Rev. Grafton H. Graham was assigned as pastor in 1866. In the following years St. Paul has had many great pastors and at present the church is blessed to have Rev. H. L. Parks, Jr. as pastor.

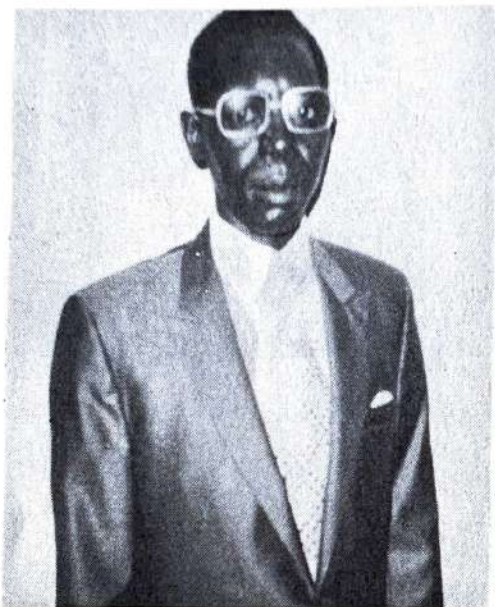


Rev. H. L. Parks, Jr.
Pastor

St. James

A.M.E. Church—Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

1821-1976



Rev. E. R. McGee
Pastor

Although the exact date is not known, it was during the summer of 1821 that a pioneer minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who having left Philadelphia by horseback, arrived in Chambersburg. Once here, he pitched his camp and organized a group of Christian workers, thus beginning the St. James A.M.E. Church of Chambersburg.

The site of St. James was purchased from George and Sarah Chambers on August 22, 1839. The deed was given November 30, 1840 by Augusta and Rebecca Greene to the A.M.E. Church. They bought the site for the sum of \$100.

The dwelling in which they held their first service was bought from Catholics. It was a log structure containing two rooms. The chairs had no backs and were made of four up-right pieces with a slab board laid across for seats. They used kerosene lamps for lighting and a great chimney for heating.

The church remained in this condition until 1865, at which time it was remodeled. The present church was built by Rev. W. H. Davis who was the first regular pastor and his congregation, in 1872. As proof of their appreciation of the hard work done by a Rev. James Payton, the members gave the church its present name, St. James. Our present pastor is the Rev. E. R. McGee.

Zion

A.M.E. Church—Worcester, South Africa

1899-1976



In the year 1899, Mr. Mike Roman, a relative of Mrs. Gow, paid a visit to Worcester. By that time there was no A.M.E. Church in Worcester. After a few months, Mr. Aurett a local preacher, was sent out to go and arrange some gatherings among the people of Worcester. Mr. Aurett was followed by Rev. Zimri, who held services in the house of Mr. Isaac Peters. The days which followed were hard and full of sacrifice. When Rev. Adriaanse arrived in Worcester, he hired with the help of a few European friends a wine cellar in Napier Street. Following Rev. A. W. Phigeland who came to



Rev. Gordon D. Van Stavel and Family

this new established church in 1901. At the Annual Conference (1903) at Kimberley, it was decided to appoint the Rev. Daniel Peter Gordon to Worcester. When he arrived here he found only seventeen members. There was also a big amount, outstanding on the account for the hiring of the building. With the help from Above, the new minister and his congregation paid all the debts of the church. He bought the building from the new owner, Mr. Wouter Hugo. Many people joined the church in those days and today Zion's membership is the most on the continent of Africa.

The pastor at present is Rev. Gordon D. Van Stavel, a grandson of Rev. D. P. Gordon. Rev. Van Stavel is building the tradition of his ancestors by leading the church in the Name of His Holy Father and in the interest of the community. He just dedicated a new church hall in memory of the late Daniel P. Gordon.

Ellen Matthews Hulse

**THE AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

AFRICAN METHODISM 1787-1976